

By Shirley Rizvi

LONDON — What do modern spies do when not snooping? Hit the bottle or relax in front of the telly, of course, unless anyone who knows better comes forward to confirm otherwise. Less than half a century ago, when the world was still partially undiscovered and the satellites not yet in orbit, the spies did the obvious: They lugged their unwieldy cameras along wherever they went.

The outcome was not always to serve the immediate ends of the Realm. Instead it varied in quality and content. Two British agents who greatly influenced the course of Middle Eastern history, TE Lawrence and Robert Byron, dabbled in archaeology, anthropology, architecture and the arts when they weren't taking notes for their military and political superiors.

The result of their exhaustive forays into a yet unveiled world of Middle Eastern societies was presented by the Courtauld Institute in London in a recent exhibition entitled, *Along the Golden Road to Samarkand*.

Curators at the Conway Library, the massive photo-archive of architecture, sculpture and mediaeval paintings at the institute, had long been aware that they had, amidst the mountains of material, photographs by Lawrence of Arabia, given in by his brother, the archaeologist and spy Professor AW Lawrence.

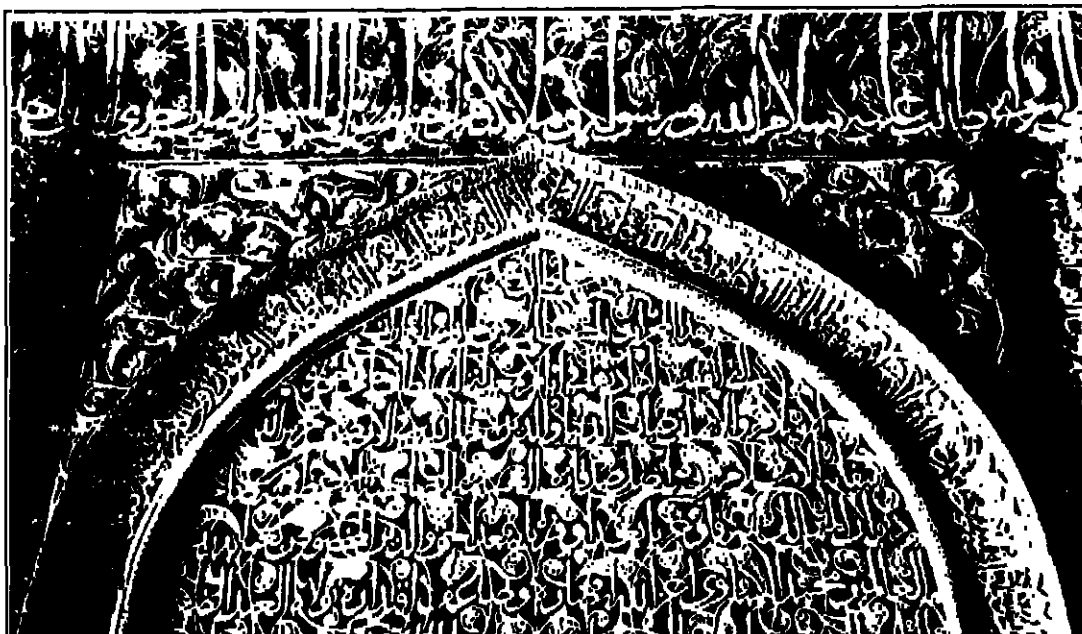
Fired by a renewed public interest in the aftermath of the Gulf War, they began to look closely at this material. It soon became clear that, among the many negatives given to them by AW Lawrence, they had more photographs by Lawrence of Arabia than previously thought, including a deeply evocative set of Al Azraq, the great black basalt fortresses of Roman and Muslim build in Jordan, which he used as his base camp for the attack on Aqaba, taken on campaign in 1917.

For these, and for the companion set of magnificent street scenes in Jeddah, probably taken in 1916, the library had the original glass negatives which allowed the curators to make magnificent prints.

At the same time the curators came upon another fascinating cache of negatives — photographs taken by Robert Byron in 1933-4 in Syria, Iran and Afghanistan, on his search for the origins of Islamic architecture chronicled

Glimpses from the nests of spies

Archive photographs taken by two of Britain's master spies, TE Lawrence ('The Lawrence of Arabia') and Robert Byron, during their expeditions in the Middle East have been the subject of a little known display at the Courtauld Institute in London. Taken just before and during the First and Second World Wars, the pictures show how the two men's interest in ancient monuments went a great way in helping their work in the British military intelligence.



Byron's photo of the Mihrab at the Friday Mosque of Isfahan (above), a street scene of Jeddah photographed by Lawrence

in his classic of travel literature, *The Road to Oxiana* (1939). The photographs often relate very closely to the text of Oxiana, and in the exhibition the chief curator, Dr Lindy Grant, was able to make telling juxtaposition of text and image.

It became clear, as the exhibition was researched, that both the Lawrence and the Byron collections came to the Conway Library through Professor TSR Boase, director of the Courtauld Institute, 1937-47, whose interest in the art of the Crusader Kingdom brought him into contact with both Byron and AW Lawrence. Their fascination with Middle Eastern monuments, their resulting knowledge of the life of the land, and of the local languages, meant that all of these men, Boase, Byron and

both the Lawrence brothers — TE most famously — were deeply involved in military intelligence. As Dr Grant pointed out, "The photographs in this exhibition are the work of some very singular spies."

Perhaps more revealing than the photos are the texts which accompany them, providing glimpses of the character



Grant said, TE Lawrence's "overblown, highly romantic prose" is very different from Byron's spare cynical elegance.

A quotation from *The Road to Oxiana* alongside a Byron photo of the citadel of Ikhtiaruddin in Herat, taken in 1933 or 1934, perhaps best sums up the forces that attracted Englishmen to the East as spies-cum-experts.

Seeking to photograph an Afghan artillery position while feigning interest in a Kufic inscription on the citadel tower, Byron contemplated the rewards that awaited him in London. "I held the secret of a formidable armament, capable of withstanding, or worse, expediting, an advance of the Soviet army on India. I saw myself earning the Victoria Cross and probably a seat in the Cabinet, by reporting its existence. It was interesting to discover, from personal experience, how spies find their vocation."

Other texts indicate that western adventurers of the age, although captivated by the wonders of the East, often felt little sympathy for it. One military officer quoted by Byron dismissed all Middle Eastern architecture as "phallic." It is instructive to see how western perceptions of Islamic architecture have evolved in the past few decades.

Of the photographs by TE Lawrence, the best ones are those taken in Jeddah, where the British set up a political mission in July 1916 to liaise with Sharif Hussein. Lawrence visited the port city in October that year and recorded in his *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* his impressions of "a remarkable town" where "the streets were alleys, wood roofed in the main bazaars, but elsewhere open to the sky in the little gap between the tops of the lofty white-walled houses. These were built four or five stories high, of coral rag tied with square beams and decorated by wide bow-windows running from ground to roof in grey wooden panels."

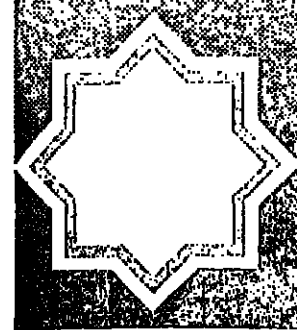
"There was no glass in Jeddah, but a profusion of good lattices, and some very delicate shallow chiselling on the panels of window casings."

Lawrence described the Jeddah architecture of the day as "crazy Elizabethan half-timber work, in the elaborate Cheshire fashion, but gone gimcrack to an incredible degree." One wonders what 'TE' would think of Jeddah today.

Academic File

Shirley Rizvi is the executive editor of Academic File.

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Jordanian-Palestinian confederation:

Changing the ground rules of the peace process?



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Canadian artists' exhibition: Art or aesthetic experience?

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

The exhibition of nine Canadian artists currently running at the National Gallery in Amman has stirred a number of questions as to its artistic credibility.

Under the title 'Travelling Theory', in reference to the same-named work of Palestinian academic Edward Said, the exhibition deals with a number of new concepts which have sprung from the artists' immediate contact with other cultures.

From their experiences of travel or their own investigations of world cultures, the artists have

explored the interplay of cultural ideas, expressing them through photographs, paintings, ceramics, crafted objects and texts.

The artists' concepts of travelling, as described in the exhibition brochures, were genuinely impressive, but the implementation of these ideas into art forms left the audience divided: Some questioned whether it was art or merely an aesthetic experience, while others gave it full artistic approval.

President of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, HRH Princess Wijdan Ali, evaluated the exhibition highly for its "depth of awareness of artists' experiences.... power-

fully expressed through new art concepts and techniques."

"I am thrilled to have this exhibition in Jordan," she affirmed. "I am personally impressed with the meaning of these art pieces. Their analogy is so close to my heart."

She pointed to one photographic installation, 'An Upset Price', which received major attention from the public, describing it as "deep and strong in its ideas, message and cultural transfer."

'An Upset Price' was composed of a central photo mural taken from an original 1837 poster advertising the sale of Indian land to non-settlers; its four other photographs are scenes from a mod-

ern supermarket, seen through the mesh of a shopping cart. The images appear as though through prison bars, hinting that consumer societies are the prisoners of their own achievements. Corn cobs and ammunition rounds on the floor allude to confrontations between native Canadians and the Quebec security police.

Although visitors evidently admired the art exhibits, many spent longer reading the brochures. "I expected much more (from the exhibits) after reading the material," said one artist. "This technique is not new to me. Something is missing in the art communication itself."

An aesthetic stimulus?

Another artist, who shared in this opinion, said that art work should be more than just personal experience, adding, "Most of the work I saw here is just a preliminary phase for further elaboration. It doesn't move me enough." Such division in opinion harked back to the old, yet much-raised questions as to "What, in fact, is art?" Is it the capability of an artist to elicit a response from the public or the mere artistic quality of the stimulus? Is it purely an aesthetic experience, or does it require an additional surplus?

We may agree that good art is a complex engagement requiring reciprocity between the self and technique, impulse and medium, feeling and tradition. If there is no flow between tradition and innovation, society and the individual, between presenting, responding and evaluating the work itself, it is hard to raise the product to the level of a work of art.

Artistic presentation invites an artistic response. The contemporary world demands more abstract and intellectual recognition, thus, people come to see art without responding to it.

One artist photographed a scene he recalled from the past, then travelled to the site to photograph it again, exhibiting both photographs together. The question remains as to how a stranger can relate to this experience. If there are no other personal touches to this work, then this 'art' is merely a literal documentation of facts.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, some accused other works of being too personal to relate to. One artist selected paint chips summing up memories of the colors of the cities he had visited. To give the impression of faded memories, he processed them four times through a photo processor, arranging the four stages of the colour change in columns.

"That sounds interesting, but it is too personal to get any response," argued one of the exhibition's visitors.

Those who examined the crafted objects on exhibit faced the most problems in defining whether they were actually works of art. Returning to the fact that contemporary scholars pledge that art concerns the stimuli that evoke an aesthetic response, they could feasibly have been considered as art works. After all, the human response is the main arbiter, irrespective of the subject—be it nature, machines, an arrangement of coffee cups, or wooden objects mixed with wooden logs.

As long as art raises questions and picks the fruits of a liberated human mind, it is to be welcomed. The Travelling Theory exhibition must then be welcomed accordingly. In the words of Edward Said, travelling theory is "a usefully enabling condition of intellectual activity, and this exhibition makes visible this activity between artists, institutions and nations."



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People will have last say on issue of confederation

By Lina Arafat
Special to The Star

THE ISSUE of establishing a confederation between the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples, although purely in the hypothetical stages, has created excited speculation about its benefits or otherwise. While many support the project, others who reject the idea say that under current political circumstances it could only serve the interests of the Israelis.

Fayez Tarawneh, a member of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, said, "I think that everyone in our area, Palestinian or Jordanian, believes that there should ultimately be some form of unification between Jordanians and Palestinians, as opposed to being two political entities."

Nonetheless, the issue is enormously complicated, and has been described somewhat skeptically by Palestine National Council member Dr. Assad Abdel Rahman, as a potential "Pandora's box." "We have to emphasize that so far there is no definite Jordanian or Palestinian position towards the issue," he added.

Should the proposal be endorsed on all sides, there are a number of issues that will impede unification. One is the fact that, for the past 45 years, the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza strip have been a practically vacant land with no infrastructure or constitutions. The problem this exposes is the argument that a confederation should be practised by nations who have sovereignty over their lands, with the right to self-determination.

"Jordan is an independent state with its own political entity," said Dr. Abdel Rahman, "but as for the occupied territories, one third of the Palestinians are under occupation. They need independence and sovereignty over their land in



Fayez Tarawneh

order to build their own political entity which would give them the right to self-determination." He argued that a confederation could only be discussed once these factors had been established, with the two peoples having the last say on the issue.

Furthermore, while it is accepted that the motive behind the confederation has been largely prompted by the need for the Palestinians to promote their legal position in the peace process, Dr. Tarawneh believes that such a federation could present problems.

"While the peace talks continue and negotiations still stress on the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and the issue of transferring authority over occupied land, an immediate call for a confederation would change the ground rules of the bilateral talks," he said, referring to the international legitimacy represented by UN resolutions 242 and 338, applicable to the West Bank and Gaza strip.

"Those who oppose the project see the argument that a confederation is a method of cooperation among independent states who enjoy sovereignty over their land. With the absence of a Palestinian state for the time being, any uni-



Dr. Assad Abdel Rahman

confederation would be an immediate implementation of the UN resolutions. This changes the international dimension of the whole process," he said, adding, "The issue still needs to be discussed in order to be able to form a final picture which would be politically and legally acceptable."

From the Palestinian side, Dr. Abdel Rahman also emphasized the negative aspect of hurrying into unification, particularly in the light of the peace process. "Why come now and cancel a Palestinian track which we have fought for for a long time?" he said.

The confederation issue remains a political project with a background full of developments that escalate daily in the region. While many believe that it could strengthen cooperation between Jordanians and Palestinians in the peace talks, others believe that by dealing with the issue before solving the bases of the conflict, such a confederation could only eventually serve Israeli interests.

Those who oppose the project use the argument that a confederation is a method of cooperation among independent states who enjoy sovereignty over their land. With the absence of a Palestinian state for the time being, any uni-

fied existence between Jordanians and Palestinians would therefore be on Jordanian land. This, they argue, provides Israel with the chance to hold onto the occupied territories, claiming the existence of a Palestinian state on Jordanian soil, while also possibly encouraging Israel to expand its authority into Jordan.

Without solving substantive issues first, such an arrangement could also give the Israeli authorities the opportunity it has longed for to deport Palestinians out of the occupied territories. This, they could challenge, would be indeed be deporting them — only it would be deportation to their confederate state of Jordan, a 'substitute' Palestinian homeland.

Nonetheless, on the other hand, the confederation project has firm supporters. These are the people who believe that each of the two peoples has its own identity, that they share a distinguished strong relationship and that both have a common interest. To them, a confederation should be based on equal justice and democracy, which would serve the interests of both peoples and maintain sovereignty for both. Supporters hope ultimately that, should land be transferred to Jordanian authority, it can then be handed back to the Palestinians within the framework of the two confederated states.

Dr. Tarawneh reiterated the argument that the project requires a multitude of considerations, and that the roots of the issue should be tackled first. "If we want to do this link, we must at least have the proper foundations for a new political entity in the Middle East — that is, if we want a lasting peace and not only a comprehensive one." The final word, he emphasized, is with the people.

BRIEFS

By Ahmad Shaker

■ The Star has learnt that high ranking committees will be formed in the near future to prepare for the Kingdom's celebrations marking the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's 40th year of Ascension to the Throne, in May of next year.

■ Finance Minister, Basil Jaradneh, will be leaving Amman at the end of next month to London and Paris. The minister will hold talks with officials in London and Paris aiming at postponing and rescheduling Jordan's debt for the year 1992-1993.

■ The Foreign Ministry received a memo from the Kuwaiti government stating that Kuwait has agreed to renew the membership of its three representatives in the Board of directors of the Phosphate Company for four more years.

■ Sources have revealed to the Star that new decisions will be taken shortly to review the prices of water pumped for irrigation purposes to the Jordan Valley.

■ The Jordanian and Iraqi governments have agreed to rent 400 trucks from Ireland to join the fleet of the Iraqi-Jordanian Company for Overland Transport. The new trucks are to replace the old ones and to meet the increasing volume of business of the past few months.

■ A delegation from Canada's External Assistance Ministry is expected to arrive in Amman in mid-May to hold talks with Jordanian officials on economic cooperation between the two countries. The delegation will offer Jordan technical assistance in various fields.

Libya stands defiant as UN sanctions are imposed

AMMAN — (Star) UN sanctions against Libya went into effect yesterday, backed by an International Court of Justice ruling rejecting Libya's request to stop the US and Britain forcing the extradition of two Libyans, suspected of bombing a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988.

11 of the International Court's 16 judges ruled against Libya's appeal on Tuesday, paving the way for the implementation of Security Council sanctions, imposed in response to Libya's refusal to surrender the suspects. Sanctions will include the cutting of air links and the banning of arms deals with Libya, but will not impose a worldwide oil embargo. The Security Council has also demanded that Libya "denounce terrorism" and allows France access to four of its citizens, suspected of collaboration in the bombing of a French plane over Niger in 1989.

24 hours before sanctions were imposed, Libya demonstrated its rejection of Western pressure by severing ties with the outside world, also serving as a gesture of respect towards citizens killed in US air raids in 1986. Iraq, itself a victim of UN sanctions, expressed solidarity with its "sister" Arab state.

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Focus on Jordanian Literature (10)

Basma Ansour:

Where youth meets artistic maturity

By Fahd A. Salameh

THIS WEEK'S edition will focus on Basma Ansour, a young but prominent Jordanian literary figure, and her first short story collection *Backwards*. Born in Zerqa, in 1966, she received her education in the same city, and after obtaining her General Secondary Certificate, she studied law at the Arab University of Beirut.

As a youth Basma was interested in literature, and during her school years she read many of the world's literary classics, especially those from Russian literature. It was during that period that her talent for imaginative writing was clearly evident to her teachers.

Having graduated, she embarked on her profession as a lawyer, while contributing regularly to Jordanian newspapers and journals, especially *Ad-Dustour*.

Basma is a member of The Jordanian Writers' Association, the Jordanian Lawyers' Syndicate and is also an active member of Amnesty International. She has participated in several literary symposia that have been held in Jordan, notably those that focused on her collection of short stories.

Backwards, which was published in Beirut in 1991, is a collection of nineteen short stories, and has a preface by Jabra Ibrahim Jabra and a cover design by Samira Arramahi. Although this is Basma's first collection, it signals the arrival of a new literary genius and raises expectations for a new, but mature form of short stories in this region. In his preface to the collection, Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, an authority on both Arabic and foreign literature, described his first impressions on reading the collection, even before making the acquaintance of the authoress:

"Whenever I come across a novel that maintains a grasp on me up until its last line, I feel as though I have found a bonanza; I exist in scrutinizing every aspect of it. And if the grasp and scrutiny sustain, then, undoubtedly, I am before a novelistic experience — inviting not only to the hands and eyes but to the mind as well, even though it may sport with it. And it is exhilarating to be driven along with it until the last shock, in spite of its pain and revelation. These were my feelings as I read Basma Ansour's collection."

On the surface, the stories in this collection appear humorous, light-hearted, and comic. But beneath this deceptive appearance lies a seriousness, a critique of life, customs, attitudes and beliefs. All this is given expression through an artistic presentation that captures the reader and keeps him under a spell until he reaches the very last word of the final story in the collection.

The situations around which the stories center are potentially, everyday situations, but what is exceptionally novel about them is the skillful way in which these



Basma Ansour

situations, their developments and their outcomes are handled. Through such handling, we are offered deep insight into the human nature in general, and individual idiosyncrasies in particular.

One such example is her story *Parting*, in which a meticulously-dressed man arrives early at a railway station, buys a first-class ticket and impatiently awaits the arrival of the train, all the time emphasizing the importance of his travel and its urgency. He remains the only person who does not leave on the train when it finally leaves from the station. Ironically, all through the story, he pours contempt on the other passengers awaiting the arrival of the train, wrangles with them and criticizes their behavior.

The exposition of characters and their attitudes emerges through varying techniques. One of these techniques is a 'twofold recognition' technique, where characters undergo experiences involving a revelation. Here, the reader not only shares the recognition which the character attains, but, by being a detached observer, finds a vision beyond the reach of the protagonist himself, which ironically evokes both tragic and comic feelings.

Such a technique is evident within the story *An Ending*, where the reader shares in the protagonist's criticism of a radio announcer's absurd talk about spacious, sunny, beautiful nature, while the noise of the drilling for the construction of a new building shakes the walls of her room. This is an act that will ultimately take up the little space left, remove the last traces of natural beauty, and will prevent the sun from entering the room. The reader also recognizes that the sterile love affair between the protagonist and her lover is a parallelism to the absurd and futile talk on the radio.

Through the use of this technique, Basma opens our eyes to the absurdity of theoretical abstractions; in comparison with what is practised in real life, and reveals the disparity between idealism and empiricism through what the protagonist does and what she should have done.

In the title story *Backwards*, a new type of tale is introduced — where the past is reflected and narrated as the present, while the present and the future are portrayed as haunting phantoms. Events take place during the night with the image of a de-

vouring monster, while the dream world created in the story is both a reassessment of the past and an attempt to redeem the bitter reality of the present and the horrifying future which awaits.

In this story, Basma reverses familiar concepts: Being unable to sleep can be interpreted as an inability to free oneself from the memories of the past, thus the story can be read with much more depth than a superficial first reading.

The plot involves an old man who relives his past youth by attempting to overcome boredom by women, friends, and books, yet they fail to fulfill his quest. While walking the deserted streets, he suddenly notices that he is being followed, but what actually haunts him is his present and his future. Closely scrutinizing the mystery face, it appears as his own, "as though watching himself in an old, smashed mirror."

The story ends with an escapist perspective; he runs as quickly as he can "without daring to turn backwards." In other words, the old man can neither tolerate to meditate on his present and future, nor dispense with his past. Criteria and concepts are reversed: Time, waking, directions, memories and expectations all refer to contrary semantic indications. The subconscious becomes the consciousness, and the conscious becomes the nightmare. Through this interpretation, the title *Backwards* acquires a new sense and meaning, while the old man escapes backwards, without daring to concentrate, or even look "forwards."

The following story, *The Guillotine*, has also been taken from the collection and is one of Basma's finest:



lotine, has also been taken from the collection and is one of Basma's finest:

"Multitudes of people streamed all over the street, to the extent that walking there necessitated bumping against others. Have spread everywhere; all were trotting towards the square of the city as the time limit drew to its end. Eagerly they trotted, bearing no other signs on their faces than the desire for salvation. No-one cared about, nor felt the presence of others; Men and women overlooked the presence of each other, no more showing off — unworried faces and dishevelled hair. Children, running away from their mothers who no longer cared for anything, straggled the sidewalks. From a bulky amplifier came a loud voice distinctly heard all

over the place, imputing the procrastination and delay in executing orders to the last moment, the cause of that panic. Waves of people approached the square, intensifying the heat of the weather; crowds of eager citizens rushed towards the electronic guillotine which had been invented by a team of foreign experts, and surrounded it.

"There's no reason for disorder," shouted a voice through the loudspeaker at them. "Every one of you will have his turn; just stand in a row."

Cowishly they retreated, and formed a long file, with their eyes fixed on the guillotine.

A moment of suspension. The team of foreign experts surrounded the gallows, made all necessary checks; one of them pressed a button, and out came a human scream. He wiped the fringes — with a sterilized piece of cotton, and announced that it was ready for use. Enthusiasm spread among the crowds, and they expressed their satisfaction, congratulating each other.

"Had it not been for those experts," said one of the congregation in excitement, wiping the perspiration off his forehead, "we would never have realized that the dreams in our heads were the cause!"

"I wish that my turn would come soon," said another. "I can't bear waiting long."

Loud applause roared with shouts of gratitude, as the senior expert cut the ribbon, inaugurating the project. People began to proceed towards the guillotine, and the process was very simple; in a designated place for the neck, a person puts his head,

and the buttons take charge of removing the dreams from it. He then receives an officially-stamped card, certifying his dream-free head.

For long hours, the work went on, and the authorities provided all necessary facilities; one of the officials checked the lists and compared them with the heads appearing, until all of the heads had been treated.

The people returned to their homes, and the square once again became empty. The team of experts switched off the buttons, divided evenly among them their financial reward, and drove towards their five-star hotel.

A mysterious calm prevailed, all the people slept soundly. But suddenly, alarm sirens were sounded, and on went the lights in the houses, windows swung

open, and agitation filled the streets. The team of experts expressed their astonishment; news agencies reported that one of the citizens had declined to locate his head in the guillotine, and that the dream-free card was not among his papers, and initial investigations showed that this dreams had the impact of thunderbolts.

The Guillotine is one of Basma's best stories, where we find her criticizing the social obsession with the myth of progress. The symbolic implications of the story are evident, and certain key words serve as clues for its symbolism. Recurrent in the text are words and phrases such as *dreams*, *purge* and *guillotine*. One interpretation of the story may be the inclination of people to accept foreign domination within their culture, sacrificing national aspirations and consequently national identity.

Such an interpretation is validated through the connotations of words such as *guillotine*, *The removal of dreams*, and *purging*; the issuing of certificates for every dream-free head represents a new identity. But Basma leaves space for optimism and salvation by allowing one citizen to abstain from accepting the purging of his dreams. This spoils their premeditated plans, and when this person dreams, his dreams have the impact of a "thunder bolt."

Emancipation from foreign domination is, therefore, rendered possible; nevertheless, the bitterness of her criticism is obviously stinging. Acceptance of foreign domination and foreign influence is not the consequence of external pressures, but a willful surrender, and a conviction based on the theory of progress which is represented by the electronic guillotine, brought to the country by a team of foreign experts on a purely commercial basis.

Backwards may be rightly classified as among the best of contemporary short story collections both in form and content. It incorporates traditional and modern themes in an opulent, powerful style, treating them with exceptional skill. The themes of Basma's collection vary, ranging from those of the individual, private life, to social and political zones. In all of her stories lies a running criticism of beliefs, dogmas, attitudes, and responses to violations of ethical norms and moral values.

All of the stories have single-word titles that direct the reader, while at the same time blinding him from seeing the truth. The titles of the stories simultaneously reveal and conceal their objectives; their oracles, the title guides us through to the end. Once this prophecy has come true and the story is completed, only then, like Oedipus, do we realize the real meaning denoted by this cryptic prophetic title. ■

Fahd Salameh is a producer at Radio Jordan. He has an MA in English Literature from the University of Jordan.

Le Jourdain

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Séminaire

Jordanie, le solaire sinon rien

A défaut de posséder des ressources en pétrole, le royaume utilise le solaire. Une solution d'avenir, concluent les spécialistes du séminaire sur les énergies renouvelables, qui ferme ses portes aujourd'hui

LA JORDANIE n'a pas de pétrole mais elle a des idées. Le pétrole? "Nous n'avons pas de ressources, nous l'importons à 100%", affirme Malek Kabarli chargé de la question des énergies renouvelables à la Royal Scientific Society (RSS), et organisateur du séminaire sur leur commercialisation (7-16 avril au Centre Culturel Royal). Les idées: "Nous avons 320 jours de soleil par an, l'énergie solaire peut représenter une solution intéressante pour le royaume". Elles germent depuis 1972 dans les esprits des scientifiques jordaniens... et allemands.

En 1976, le tout premier projet réunit les deux pays. Il s'agit d'utiliser l'énergie solaire pour la désalinisation de l'eau à Aqaba. Depuis, ils travaillent en étroite coopération. En 1982, la RSS publie une étude de marché qui aboutit à ces conclusions: utiliser le soleil et le vent en tant qu'énergies peut-être rentable pour le chauffage de l'eau domestique et industriel, le pompage de l'eau, et l'électrification des villages.

Etape suivante: en 1983, la RSS crée un département de recherches spécialisées dans les énergies renouvelables. Ses résultats se mesurent aujourd'hui sur le terrain. La Jordanie compte 120.000 unités d'énergie solaire consacrées au chauffage de l'eau (18 à 20% des habitations), plus de 16 pour le pompage de l'eau. Plus de cinq stations captent l'énergie du vent pour produire de l'électricité.

Intérêt mutuel

Au séminaire, qui a rassemblé 250 conférenciers, dont 165 étrangers, les Allemands ont affirmé leur force dans ces domaines. Leurs techniciens et chercheurs participent à différents programmes de ce type à travers le monde: au Maroc, au Brésil, en Indonésie... "Notre intérêt dans ces projets ne se présume pas sous la forme d'une vaine gloire. En Jordanie, nous apprenons beaucoup car les conditions optimales pour l'utilisation de ces énergies sont réunies. Ces expériences affectent notre technologie. En fait, cette coopération, c'est un intérêt mutuel à la base" affirme le professeur Werner Gochi, de l'Université de Aachen en Allemagne. Son diagnostic: "Dans les années qui viennent, la Jordanie ne pourra pas se contenter des énergies renouvelables, mais celles-ci devront jouer avoir leur place dans la palette des énergies qui seront utilisées".

Le professeur Horst Selzer, président de la Société allemande pour l'Energie solaire (700 membres), insiste sur la nécessité absolue de ce type d'énergies. Pour lui, le problème majeur vient de la combustion d'énergies fossiles qui produit du dioxyde de carbone. Un phénomène qui, s'il n'est pas contrôlé, peut entraîner des changements climatiques considérables: "C'est déjà, avec les orages qui se sont abattus sur le Moyen-Orient, nous avons eu les premiers signes de ces modifications". Il ajoute: "C'est une question de vie pour les générations futures". Pour le Moyen-Orient, ces changements risquent de provoquer des "balais de précipitations". De quoi faire frissonner quand on sait



La première maison chauffée à l'énergie solaire

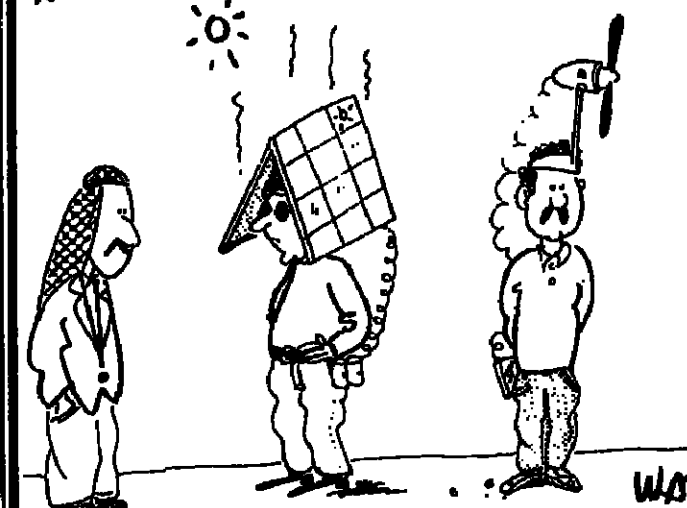
l'importance de l'approvisionnement en eau pour la région.

Les calculs du professeur Selzer sont simples: dans les cinquante ans qui viennent, 2/3 des énergies fossiles, telles que le pétrole, le gaz naturel ou le charbon devront être remplacées par des énergies renouvelables. Ces efforts devront être fournis dans les mêmes proportions par les pays développés et par les pays du Tiers-monde. Sinon? "Cela peut inclure des migrations importantes", affirme le professeur Selzer. Il tempère aussitôt ses propos: "C'est désormais une évidence pour les scientifiques, l'atmosphère va connaître des changements, mais ils ne peuvent pas encore en mesurer toutes les conséquences".

Après le séminaire, la Royal Scientific Society va publier un rapport concernant la commercialisation de ces énergies nouvelles. "Il n'y a pas de marché favorable, c'est valable pour tous les pays, affirme le professeur Gochi, nous avons encore à convaincre les investisseurs de l'avenir de ces énergies". ■

Francis Massey

NOUVEAUX MODES D'ÉNERGIE



"Welcome and bienvenue" clamait Mickey du balcon d'un château, lundi, lors de l'ouverture d'EuroDisneyland dans la région parisienne. Ce parc d'attraction, dont la construction a duré cinq longues années a coûté 4 milliards de dollars. EuroDisneyland attend 11 millions de visiteurs par an.

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RAPATRIES - Le ministre du travail veut entamer des négociations avec le Koweït sur la question des rapatriés. "Ces derniers, 386.000, ont contribué à la construction du Koweït pendant quatre décennies, avant de subir des expulsions en masse, sans aucune justification légale", a déclaré samedi Abdul Karim Al Kabirli. "Le gouvernement koweïtien a violé tous ses engagements en matière de droits de l'homme et de principes internationaux concernant le traitement de la main d'œuvre étrangère" a ajouté le ministre.

SANTÉ - Les prix des médicaments vont être standardisés dans toutes les pharmacies et drugstores à partir du 25 avril, a annoncé Aref Al Bataineh, le ministre de la Santé. Cette mesure a pour but de faire baisser les prix des produits importés de l'étranger, dont les médicaments utilisés pour des traitements à long terme.

HASSAN - Il faut utiliser les technologies du futur au service de l'éducation du passé! Telle était la substance de l'intervention du Prince héritier Hassan, dimanche, lors de l'ouverture à Irbid (JUST), de la cinquième Conférence internationale sur l'Histoire et l'Archéologie en Jordanie. Celle-ci accueillait 150 chercheurs, de différentes nationalités, qui pour la plupart ont déjà travaillé sur des sites jordaniens.

PROCES - 16 condamnés et 32 acquittés dans l'affaire de la Pétra Bank dont le procès s'est tenu la semaine dernière. L'ex-patron Irakliel, Ahmad Chalabi a été déclaré coupable de détournement de fonds, fraude fiscale et abus de confiance. Il a été condamné à 35 ans de prison et à payer 46 millions de dollars d'amende. S'il est extradé vers la Jordanie il devra accomplir 22 ans de travaux forcés. Plus: ses membres de sa famille et des administratifs ont également été condamnés.

EUROPE - La Commission de la communauté européenne vient de décider une nouvelle aide d'urgence à la Jordanie: 90.000 Eous (76.100 JD) pour "International Refugee Year Trust", une organisation anglaise qui doit mettre en place d'un programme de Santé touchant les rapatriés. Cette mission consiste à fournir deux "cliniques mobiles" avec leurs staffs techniques et médicaux. Depuis le début de la Crise du Golfe en août 1990, l'aide européenne au Moyen-Orient est de 870 millions d'Eous.

A VOIR...

CINEMA - "La vie est un long fleuve tranquille" d'Etienne Chatiliez (1988), avec Benoit Magimel et Valérie Lalande, lundi 20 avril au Centre culturel français. Ce film, qui a obtenu quatre Césars en 1988, est une comédie satirique.

Zoom

L'ADC plaide la cause arabe

L'antenne locale du comité américano-arabe a récemment fait front contre l'octroi de crédits américains à Israël. A la fin du mois, elle participe à la neuvième convention générale de l'organisation à Washington

"AU COUCHER du soleil, de la terrasse, on aperçoit les lumières de Jéricho, de Jérusalem, de ce pays qui nous a été volé. Le vol du siècle, sinon du millénaire!" Ainsi s'exprime Nidal Soukhtian, riche industriel de renom, fondateur de l'antenne locale d'Amman du "American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee". Né en 1941 en Palestine, il est contraint de quitter son pays en 1948. Puis d'errer d'un endroit à l'autre jusqu'à ce qu'il s'établisse en Jordanie et qu'il réussisse à assurer à sa famille le confort d'une immense et luxueuse maison dessinée par un architecte français.

Mais la richesse n'est pas une fin en soi. Le choix du site de cette demeure n'est pas un hasard. Loin d'Amman et de ses commodités, (il n'existe pas encore de liaison téléphonique directe) mais perchée sur la montagne, face à la Cisjordanie. Un véritable château-fort, d'où il mène son combat en faveur de la cause palestinienne.

En 1988, Nidal Soukhtian décide d'agir. Il ne veut plus revoir dans ses mauvais rêves le massacre des camps palestiniens de Sabra et Chatila perpétré par des membres de milices chrétiennes libanaises. Grâce à la complaisance de l'armée israélienne qui assaillait alors ces camps. "J'ai alors compris beaucoup de choses, en particulier que l'Amérique est la force la plus importante derrière Israël et que sans ce soutien Israël retrouverait sa dimension naturelle". Il ajoute: "J'ai donc voulu étudier la façon dont les Américains perçoivent le problème palestinien, et influencer leurs décisions politiques concernant le conflit israélo-arabe. ADC était à cette époque le seul choix à la fois disponible et idéal. Dès que l'occasion s'est présentée, j'ai créé une antenne locale à Amman".

Droits des citoyens arabes

ADC. Trois lettres pour lutter contre la discrimination sous toutes ses formes. C'est un sénateur américain d'origine libanaise, James Abou Raza, qui en 1980 fonde le "American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee". Objectif: défendre les droits des citoyens américains d'origine arabe et promouvoir leur riche héritage culturel. Le Comité, dont le siège se trouve à Washington, rassemble peu à peu des Américains d'origines diverses. Aujourd'hui, il compte environ 70.000 membres.

ADC s'efforce également de discuter les décisions du gouvernement américain en matière de politique étrangère et publie un rapport annuel sur la situation des droits de l'homme dans les Territoires occupés. Le Comité, à travers ses activités, se focalise sur la minorité arabe des Etats-Unis. Sans renier ses origines, une aide humanitaire est accordée aux populations des territoires



Nidal Soukhtian: "Les Américains déterminent notre futur et celui de nos enfants"

du Moyen Orient.

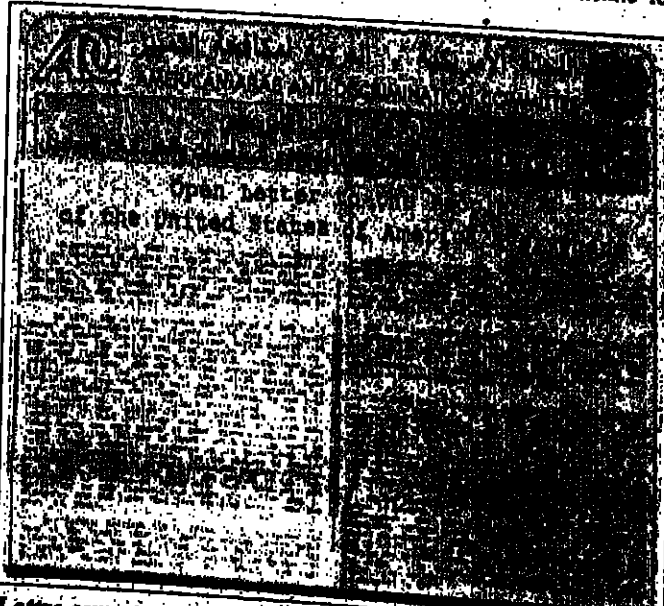
L'antenne d'Amman est devenue en 1991 le bureau régional d'ADC pour tout le Moyen-Orient. Il existe deux autres sections, à Jérusalem et au Koweït. ADC-Amman a été créé pour aider et soutenir les revendications arabes sur le plan international. C'est également, selon Nidal Soukhtian, le complément indispensable du Comité américain. "L'ADC se doit d'être en relation permanente avec ses racines pour une meilleure

et pour les buts qu'elle s'est fixés, elle convient parfaitement".

Equipe de volontaires

Les relations entre les deux comités? Il s'agit essentiellement d'échanges d'informations et d'idées. Washington informe Amman de ce qui se passe aux Etats-Unis, Amman informe à Washington les différentes questions arabes à soutenir sur le plan local.

La directrice de l'antenne lo-



Lettre ouverte contre l'octroi de crédits américains à Israël

compréhension des aspirations de tous les Arabes, ceux de la diaspora et ceux de l'intérieur". Et d'ajouter: "ADC est essentiellement l'association arabe la mieux établie aux Etats-Unis. Elle ne peut être pas exactement comparée au Comité arabe, car ce dernier est une association américaine-arabe".

trouvaient auparavant dans des pays du Golfe et ont dû revenir en Jordanie après la guerre. Tout ce monde voulait travailler avec nous sur la base du volontariat, et ce pour aider notre cause". Les activités du AIX-Amman sont diverses: organisation de colloques, de marches pour la paix mais aussi d'expositions comme celle de février dernier au Centre Culturel Royal sur "l'Intifada par les caricatures". D'après des dessins publiés dans la presse américaine et canadienne, l'antenne d'Amman aide également les journalistes de passage dans la région. Depuis peu, une équipe de volontaires a entrepris de traduire et même d'écrire des articles à l'intention du comité américain. Dernièrement, ADC-Amman s'est mobilisée contre l'octroi de garanties de prêt américaines à Israël. Une lettre de doléances a été adressée à l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis en Jordanie.

Deux projets importants se profilent à l'horizon d'ADC. A la fin du mois d'avril, se tiendra à Washington la neuvième Convention du Comité sur le thème: "Droits civils à l'intérieur, droits de l'homme à l'étranger". Les principaux intervenants: le chef de la délégation palestinienne, Haidar Abdel Shafi, le prince héritier Hassan... Enfin, ADC veut promouvoir la création à Amman d'un institut pour étudier les dossiers de la politique américaine au Moyen-Orient. "Les Américains sont en train de déterminer notre futur et celui de nos enfants. Nous ne savons pas comment et pourquoi ils agissent de la sorte. Mais nous voulons les comprendre et les convaincre avec leurs politiques discriminatoires", dit Nidal Soukhtian, sommé les victimes.

Mickael Elie.

L'EDITO de La Presse Le Petit Prince

II. A AINSI vécu moi, une personne à qui parler véritablement des questions cruciales relatives aux réfugiés de la Maison et de son peuple en Diaspora. Il n'y a pas de lieutenants auprès d'un demandeur conseil, une réponse à un problème inextricable lui faisait défaut. Il était réduit au silence; il répondait lui-même aux questions qu'il posait. Jusqu'à l'accident de son Antonov dans le désert du Sahara.

Alors qu'il était plus âgé qu'un naufragé sur un radeau au milieu de l'océan de sable, il a fait un vœu. Le Petit Prince a vu Jérusalem. La conservation de même. Au lieu de l'enlèvement, l'enfant de la Terre-Sainte resurgit en "Survivor" fini.

Que lui a demandé la ville de son rêve? Que lui a-t-il répondu? Avant-il besoin de lui faire plus de dessin afin d'obtenir sa satisfaction bon enfant?

L'idée de dessiner un moulin n'a certainement pas traversé l'esprit du Petit Prince. Car les souffrances de ses enfants, l'intérieur, ont dépassé le nombre, les offrandes de toutes les croyances de notre planète.

Mais il s'est certainement posé la question sur la possibilité de ce rendez-vous avec sa Ville Sainte au plein milieu du désert. Car la moindre des récompenses à des centaines de souffrances... les trois derniers dans le cockpit de notre avion. C'est une promesse de retour dans la ville de rêve.

Le miracle par excellence. Cela lui a sans doute confirmé le poids de sa mission d'essayer une réparation difficile. Non pas de l'épave de son avion mais de la Maison. Alors d'être à nouveau au rendez-vous avec l'histoire. L'Histoire dont les fils se tissent par-ci et par-là, une difficulté sans précédent.

L'accident n'est nullement un naufrage dans le passé, histoire de notre Petit Prince. C'était simplement une escale qui a marqué les regards de tous les hommes sur un pilote solitaire et ses passagers. L'histoire d'aujourd'hui d'aujourd'hui leur destination légitime. Certes, la destination n'est un secret pour personne. Mais le plus de vol devrait être tenu pour jour. Car pour arriver, faut un appareil solide capable de faire face aux vents violents et plus terriblement intempéries. Pour ce faire, le travail d'équipe est essentiellement la solution. Les miracles ne font pas partie de la loi quotidienne.

Telephone & fax 648250

Interview de Monique Landry

Le Canada promet une hausse de l'aide à la Jordanie

Le ministre des relations extérieures canadien a annoncé cette semaine à Amman une hausse "substantielle" des crédits à la Jordanie. Avant de soutenir le royaume lors de la Conférence sur les réfugiés à Ottawa le mois prochain

Le Jourdain: Lors de la récente visite du roi Hussein au Canada, votre Premier ministre, Brian Mulroney a promis d'augmenter l'aide à la Jordanie. Allez-vous tenir sa parole? Monique Landry: Le Canada a ses propres problèmes financiers, les budgets d'aide augmentant moins qu'on le souhaiterait. Mais j'ai quand même indiqué aux différents ministres jordaniens que le Canada allait augmenter sa coopération avec le royaume. Il y a déjà eu des programmes très spéciaux, dont le paquet mis en place après la guerre du Golfe. Maintenant l'on parle d'un programme régulier, qui prévoit une augmentation de l'aide. Ceci devrait démontrer le fait que nous voulons coopérer de façon plus intense avec la Jordanie. (N.D.R.: Les contributions canadiennes à la Jordanie ne cessent de croître depuis 1986. Celle qui a suivi la guerre du Golfe est de 22,5 millions de dollars).

L.J.: Pour l'avenir, peut-on avancer une somme. Des accords ont-ils déjà été signés? Monique Landry: Pas encore. Avec le ministre du Plan, Ziad Fariz, nous avons discuté des types de programmation, nous avons évoqué les secteurs d'intérêt communs que nous pouvions supporter. J'ai également indiqué au ministre que nous allions envoyer une délégation de fonctionnaires très bientôt de façon à pouvoir concrétiser nos discussions. Une personne de l'Agence canadienne de développement international, l'ACDI, sera présente à plein temps au ministère du Plan à partir de l'été. Je crois que ce sont des signes clairs qui montrent que le Canada veut participer activement au développement de la Jordanie.

L.J.: Vous prévoyez une hausse importante de l'aide? Monique Landry: Assez substantielle. Nous avons parlé avec le ministre du Plan de continuer à soutenir la balance des paiements dans le cadre du programme d'ajustement structurel de la Banque Mondiale. Le volet social devrait prendre une certaine importance. Il s'agit d'appuyer des programmes pour aider les populations. Il y a une volonté de la part de mon gouvernement de supporter les actions des ONG canadiennes qui viennent ici en mission. L'appui au secteur privé est aussi important, notamment dans le domaine des transferts de technologies. Nous avons de grandes ambitions, il s'agit maintenant de les concrétiser.

L.J.: Quel est à votre avis le projet le plus important? Monique Landry: J'aime aller sur le terrain pour voir ce qui se fait. Je suis allé visiter le camp de réfugiés de Bagdad où le Canada a beaucoup travaillé. On m'a montré la clinique avec une plaque du Canada. Celle-ci avait été inaugurée par la Reine. Je pense que le Canada a beaucoup

aidé dans le domaine des réfugiés...

L.J.: La transition est facile avec la Conférence sur les réfugiés du mois prochain à Ottawa (13-15 mai). Le Canada dirige une commission sur le sujet qui a été créée à Moscou. Qui va participer à cette réunion?

Monique Landry: Tous les pays qui ont participé aux négociations bilatérales et multilatérales, je pense qu'il est important que tous les partenaires soient là. C'est un honneur pour le Canada d'accepter cette mission très im-

portante. Nous savons très bien que le problème des réfugiés est un problème majeur pour la région. Le Canada va jouer le rôle de catalyseur pour aider les partenaires à dialoguer. Actuellement nous faisons une tournée pour définir l'agenda de la réunion. Nous essayons d'assumer nos responsabilités avec le plus grand sérieux. Et nous espérons que les partenaires trouveront des solutions.

L.J.: Les Palestiniens de la diaspora vont-ils participer à la Conférence? Monique Landry: Vous le sa-

vez bien, ce sont les co-parrains qui vont décider...

L.J.: Souhaitez-vous leur présence? Pouvez-vous répondre par oui ou par non? Monique Landry: Je ne préfère pas. Notre rôle ne se limite pas à porter un jugement de ce type. Actuellement, les co-parrains de la Conférence ont des discussions avec les principaux partenaires pour s'assurer qu'ils seront présents et participeront à la Conférence.

L.J.: Depuis plusieurs mois, la Jordanie lance un appel à l'aide internationale pour absorber ses 386.000 rapatriés du Golfe. Cette conférence sera bien sûr le lieu idéal pour évoquer la question?

Monique Landry: Je suis consciente que la Jordanie assume une responsabilité très grande dans le domaine des réfugiés et des rapatriés. Nous n'avons pas de solution miracle, mais nous espérons que le dialogue permettra de trouver des solutions au problème des réfugiés dans toute la région. C'est une question qui

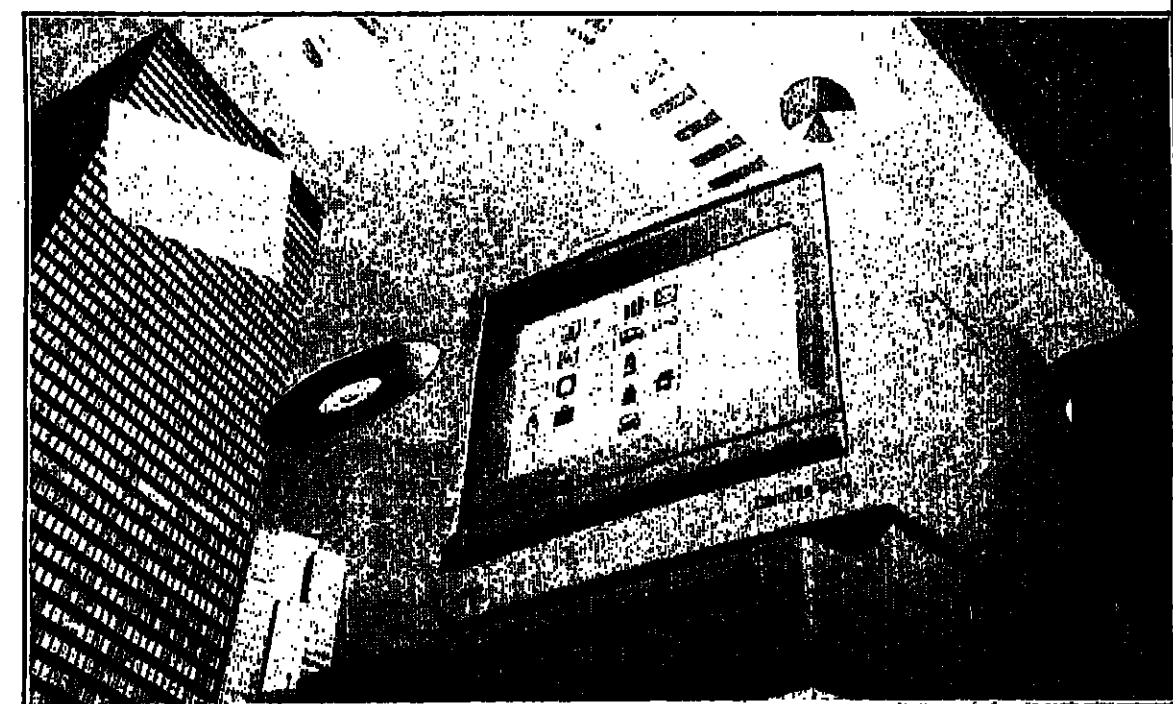
dovra se régler si l'on veut être capable de régler le problème de la paix dans la au Moyen-Orient.

L.J.: Certains reprochent aux Américains de vouloir imposer "leur paix" dans la région. Trouvez-vous ces réactions excessives?

Monique Landry: Au départ, il faut admettre que ce sont les Etats-Unis qui ont fait le gros effort pour réunir les partenaires, que sans les Etats-Unis, il n'y aurait pas de Conférence de paix. La Russie a quand même été co-parrain. Cela démontre que les deux anciens blocs souhaitent cette Conférence. Quant à nous, nous sommes reconnus comme des gens pacifiques, nous avons toujours joué un rôle très important dans toutes les missions de paix dans le monde. Notre rôle est très défini et complémentaire par rapport à ce que d'autres pays peuvent faire. Je me sens très à l'aise dans le rôle que le Canada joue, le Canada a toujours eu sa place, il est très crédible. ■

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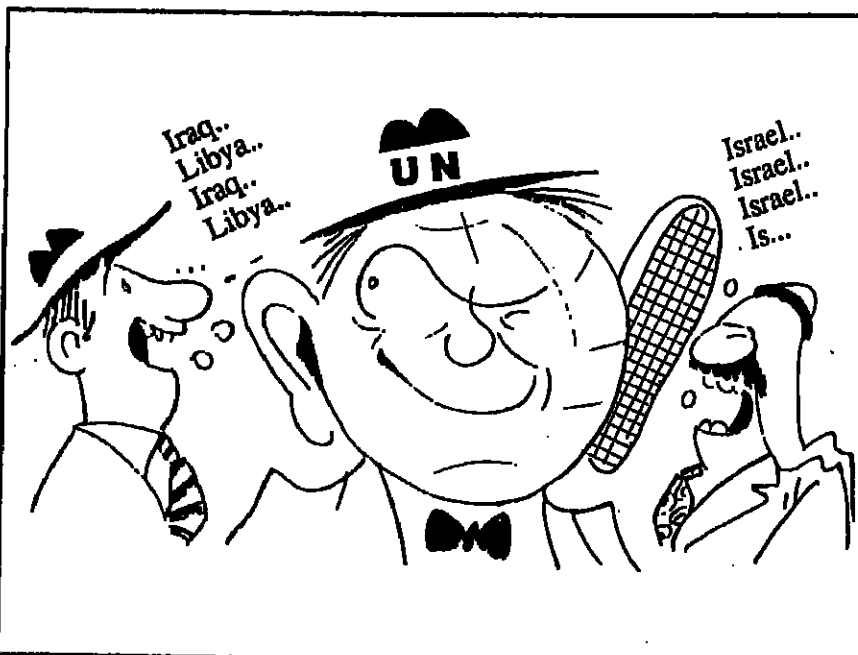
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Our Say....

An ominous development

THE IMPOSITION of sanctions on Libya is yet another ominous sign that the Arab world is being penalized and targeted by the proponents of the new world order. The Arab people have again been reminded that their aspirations and dreams for freedom and justice will be crushed by the dominant world powers.

This systematic confiscation of the aspirations of the Arab people can only further the conditions of restlessness and instability in this region. We cannot help but wonder whether anyone will actually benefit from this continuous destabilization, which has pushed the Arab people to the limits of desperation and hopelessness.

And when we witness this swift, well-coordinated, and unrelenting insistence on enforcing Security Council resolutions taken less than a month ago, we cannot help but ask about the numerous Security Council resolutions that have called for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Why isn't the world so adamant and so insistent and unrelenting when it comes to implementing these resolutions?

It is quite evident that Israel is still being treated as the spoiled child of this region. Arab power is being systematically destroyed or curtailed, whereas Israel is allowed to have a free hand in the accumulation of weapons of mass destruction. Israel's usurpation of Arab land by the continuous construction of settlements is still not being checked — nor is it being challenged by any of the powers that are so intent upon punishing the Arab countries, under any pretext.

We in the Arab world view the imposition of sanctions against Libya with the blessings and endorsement of the Security Council quite apprehensively, and we feel that this tragic development will only open the way for further deterioration between Libya and the western countries. Unless wisdom prevails and unless reason takes over, we can see that this confrontation will only escalate into a military entanglement that will result in more innocent casualties and further instability in this part of the world.

It is therefore the responsibility of the world community to see that this systematic destabilization of the Arab world is immediately brought to a halt, and that the resolutions of the Security Council are neither implemented on a selective basis, nor abused by any power that might only be interested in furthering its own interests, especially at the expense of our region's peace and stability.

It is, indeed, hoped that this ominous development of the past few days, being the implementation of UN resolutions against Libya, will not be permitted to deteriorate any further. We also hope to avoid any military confrontation, for that can only bring the unpredictable consequence of chaos, while causing further pain and suffering for the Arab people of Libya.

While it is difficult to predict the likely consequences of this systematic dissemination of chaos and forced regional destabilization, every possible effort should now be taken, both within an Arab and a global context, to avert any further deterioration in this conflict. The confrontation between Libya and the Western countries involved must not be allowed to degenerate to its ultimately tragic and bloody limits.

Privatization: Egypt's economic turning point?

By Riad Al Khouri
Special to The Star

PAST WEEKS have seen an acceleration of privatization in Egypt to the point where it is now being taken very seriously. IMF reform, supported by the world financial community, is finally affecting Egypt and could also set a regional precedent, particularly with growing competition for private capital, bigger claims on less foreign aid, and the emergence of trade blocs.

The reform program aims at enhancing the supply responsiveness of the economy, while alleviating inflation and foreign exchange pressure. Accordingly, the program combines structural policies with supportive demand management.

Reform has already brought results, the most important being a reduction in internal and external financial imbalances. The inflation rate for the past fiscal year was 20.7 per cent (down from 21.4 per cent) and the transactions account of the balance of payments showed a healthy \$1.4 billion surplus. These and many other positive indicators show that Egypt is turning the corner economically, and serve to provide a foundation for the implementation of structural change.

To launch this, Egypt has started the process of bringing private capital into hundreds of state-owned enterprises, though it may be a while before concrete results emerge. The equivalent of \$45 billion of state assets will be up for sale, although whether the public sector can attract private investors to commit funds to revitalizing companies remains to be seen.

The basic strategy of reform is to sell off assets owned by regional authorities and then restructure the public sector so that commercial holding companies would own groups of firms. These would be allowed to raise capital from private sources. The sale of units owned by regional authorities has been happening for over a year, and further progress awaits the development of a functioning capital market for such entities.

New capital market legislation is due soon and aims to stimulate stock exchange activity and underpin reforms. The law provides tax incentives for investment in corporate bonds and equities.

For the public sector as a whole, a new Enterprise Sector Law was passed less than a year ago. The 26 holding companies that will oversee this sector will correspond to the general organizations which used to control public sector firms under government supervision.

Initially, the donor community grew frustrated at the lack of progress following the passing of the new law, but recent moves have seen the "appointment of shareholders" to revamp the inefficient public sector, delighting businessmen (but disappointing trade union leaders).

The government has named hundreds of businessmen, trade unionists and others from both the public and private sectors to form the general assemblies of holding companies to reform public sector firms, however, questions exist as to whether the new bodies will really be able to take the initiative in the trimming or selling off of firms owned by the state.

These assemblies are supposed to serve the same function as shareholders in a private company, but the government has fi-

nal authority over them. To create a balance among different groups, the state has tried to choose people representing a wide range of views. The government is also approving management boards to run the holding companies on a day-to-day basis. Egypt's private business is delighted by the assemblies' make-up and feels the government is serious. But the trade union, which have tried but failed to stem the flow of free market policies, are less than happy.

Nevertheless, these developments indicate that things are on the move. The approach to privatization has been in keeping with a policy of gradualism. With the first phase of economic reforms now completed, the second phase is starting slowly. Through it has been suggested that the government is procrastinating, gradualism is dictated by a desire to make the transition to a market economy without social and political upheaval. (The example of some East European states, which moved too fast economically and have paid the price in terms of severe rates of inflation and unemployment, is being cited.)

Egypt is having to grapple with various problems. Unemployment is becoming an issue and the authorities are determined to avoid sudden moves that might provoke a violent backlash, particularly from the trade unions as well as fundamentalists. (There is a tacit commitment to keep state-owned enterprises going, however dire their finances, as well as an explicit pledge not to allow any bank to fail). On the other hand, industry fears the easing of import restrictions (particularly in the textile sector) although this is a key element in the reform process.

Egypt has reaped international support since the Gulf War, when its alliance with the coalition resulted in its being forgiven a massive chunk of debt. The IMF and World Bank look favorably on these latest moves to develop a market based economy. But accepting their demands in order to gain international assistance will bring increased austerity measures to a country where austerity has become a way of life for too many.

However, underlying economic trends may come to the rescue. The economy is set to grow by about 3.2 per cent in 1992, according to a World Bank forecast. This compares with 1.3 per cent in 1991 and 2.4 per cent in 1990. The tourism and oil sectors are booming, with the latter bringing in around \$2 billion in hard currency last year. Regional economic relations are expanding, and, perhaps most significantly of all in the long term, the population increase is slowing: UN figures put the latest annual growth rate at 2.5 per cent, down from 2.8 per cent a few years ago. If such trends continue, many of Egypt's problems could be eased, easing adjustment and privatization.

Egypt's moves to privatize are the start of serious structural reform. Favourable economic trends give this good chances of success, but change must be gradual to keep the lid on social problems interacting with fundamentalism.

Riad Al Khouri is an economic consultant and is director of Middle East Business Associates Ltd.

By Mushtaq Parker

BURIED IN the small Muslim cemetery in Granada in Spain is Muhammad Asad, one of the most prominent Muslim thinkers of the twentieth century. His life was one of great adventure, whether as a teenage soldier in the Austrian army or as a young journalist in Berlin in the Twenties. His travels in the Middle East far surpassed the ventures of Burton and Doughty in their range and in their close involvement with the peoples and cultures of the region.

Asad was Pakistan's ambassador at the United Nations in the early Fifties, and the confidant of many major Muslim figures: King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud, the founder of Saudi Arabia, and his son King Faisal; Omar Mukhtar, the Libyan mujahid who rebelled against the Italian occupation; and Mohammad Iqbal, the great Pakistani poet and philosopher. Yet in February this year, Asad died aged 92, in near obscurity. News of his death filtered out only weeks later, but left a profound sense of loss among his many admirers.

Born Leopold Weiss in 1900 in Lwow, Galicia — now in Poland but then part of the Austrian Empire, he was the son of a Jewish barrister and grandson of an Orthodox rabbi. At 14 he joined the Austrian army by lying about his age and name, only to be traced by his father. Four years later he was drafted but within a few weeks revolution broke out, the Austrian Empire collapsed, and the war was over.

He studied the history of art and philosophy in Vienna then went to Prague and later Berlin, where he was involved with the intellectual circle centered on the old Cafe des Westons. His break in journalism came in 1921 when he charmed Madame Gorky (then on a secret visit to Berlin) into giving him a scoop about the Russian famine for which he won promotion at the United Telegraph news agency.

Invited to Jerusalem by his uncle, Dorian Weiss, he left that year for a journey to the Middle East which was to change his life. In Jerusalem he encountered the Zionist Action Committee, but conceived a strong objection to Zionism — an objection which he personally conveyed to Dr Chaim Weizmann, the leader of the Zionist movement. At the same time he became a special correspondent for *Frankfurter Zeitung*, making a name for himself with his dispatches from Palestine.

He travelled extensively in the Mashreq and Maghreb and Transjordan, where he befriended the Emir. He briefly returned to Europe, then left for his second journey to the Middle East in 1924. In Cairo he met Islamist thinker, Mustafa Al-Maraghi, a pupil of the great Egyptian reformer Mohammed Abduh, and attended Arabic classes at Al Azhar University.

In 1926 he converted to Islam, together with his first wife, Elsie. He lived in Arabia for nearly six years and, after Elsie's death, married a local Arab woman who bore him his only child — a son. It was only in the late 1930s that he discovered that his parents had died in a Nazi concentration camp.

Asad then travelled to British India and befriended Iqbal, the spiritual father of the idea of a separate Pakistan, whom he admired greatly. After partition and

Obituary: Muhammad Asad Muslim intellectual dies in relative obscurity



Muslim thinker Muhammad Asad (right)

independence in 1947 Asad was appointed Head of the Middle East Division at the Foreign Ministry. He firmly believed that the creation of Pakistan was an historical necessity, "otherwise Muslims would have been submerged in the much more developed and intellectually and economically stronger Hindu society."

After an absence of 25 years from the West, Asad came to Paris and then to New York in 1952, serving as Pakistan's Minister Plenipotentiary to the United Nations. Here he met his third wife, Pola Hamida, whom he married that year.

Asad's sojourn in the Muslim world was not a "mere outward accommodation of a European to a Muslim community in which he happened to live." His spiritual autobiography *The Road to*

Mecca (1954), which the *Times Literary Supplement* called "a narrative of great power and beauty," covered the first half of his life, and his conversion to his new belief, "a conscious, whole-hearted transference of allegiance from one cultural environment to another."

Asad's chief ambition was to translate the Quran into English. First Switzerland and then Morocco provided the setting for the preparation of his magnum opus, *The Message of the Quran* (1980). In its intellectual engagement with the text and in the intimate, subtle and profound understanding of the pure classical Arabic of the Quran, Asad's interpretation is of a power and intelligence without rival in English.

Much of the translation work and writing was done near Tangiers, where the Asads lived for 19 years. Asad's other works include *The Principles of State and Government in Islam* (1978), *Sahih Al-Bukhari: Early days of Islam* (1978) and *This Law of Ours and other Essays* (1987). But, disillusioned with the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979, the war between Iran and Iraq, and the "fundamentalist" chaos in the Muslim world in general, the Asads moved to Lisbon.

Asad was saddened by the intellectual insularity of the Muslim world, the intolerance of the

extremists, and was a powerful advocate of the rights of Muslim women. It was Asad's insistence that the constitution of Pakistan allow for the election of a woman leader, opening the way for Benazir Bhutto. "The great mistake (of the Fundamentalists)," he once explained, "is that most of these leaders start with the hudud, criminal punishment. This is the end result of the sharia (Islamic law), not the beginning. The beginning is the rights of people. There is no punishment in Islam which has no corresponding right." He called for the codification of the sharia, suggesting a methodology in *The Principles of State and Government in Islam*.

To Asad, the only real Islamic society existed during the time of the Prophet Muhammad. The sharia, "as it is conceived today together with *fiqh* (jurisprudence)," he argued, cannot be implemented because "it is too huge a structure. But... codified and reduced to its proper scope (it) can be implemented." This view, together with his refusal to acknowledge Khomeini as "The Imam" made him a few powerful enemies.

His self-imposed "exile" from the Muslim world was, in retrospect, a mistake. The former Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Yamani was a patron of Asad for many years and the Emir Salman, Governor of Riyadh and brother of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, invited the Asads to live in Saudi Arabia — the "Homecoming of the Heart" for which Asad had been longing for many years and which would have been the title of the second half of his autobiography on which he was working till his death.

The Independent

Joining hands to fill the ozone hole

By Maryam Schiller

TODAY'S COMPLEX and serious pollution problems respect no borders, blurring the lines between national and international jurisdictions, and demanding immediate resolution by increased international cooperation.

GENEVA — OZONE depletion over the northern hemisphere has sent alarm bells ringing in the political and industrial corridors of Europe and the United States. Days after NASA scientists warned of the likelihood of the highest levels of ozone-destroying chemicals ever measured, western decision-makers rushed to work on a faster schedule to phase out the use of chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs.

Experts at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration believe that populated areas of the northern hemisphere face 30 to 40 per cent ozone depletion, which is twice as fast as originally thought and likely to lead to an increase of serious illnesses such as skin cancer and eye disorders.

Given the seriousness of the problem, this time over America's own head, President George Bush has pledged to halt CFC production by 1995 — five years before the headline set by the 1987 Montreal Protocol. Germany has promised to stop use by January 1995, leading the rest of

the European Community, which has set July 1995 as the cut-off date for the use of CFC in the manufacture of refrigerators and aerosols and of halon in fire-fighting equipment. But experts point out that while the outcry by environmentalists has finally been heard, the new steps fall far short of the need for an immediate ban.

Critics point out that new legislation is the last thing the region needs. Mechanisms to counter serious environmental problems such as the present threat to parts of the United States, Canada and Europe already exist in more than 100 environmental treaties.

James Gustave Speth, president of the World Resources Institute believes that "today's major environmental challenges can be met only with a new system of shared international responsibility. We should capitalize on the knowledge, expertise and effectiveness our institutions have acquired during the last 20 years."

In a World Resources Institute report, *Lessons Learned in Global Environmental Governance*, Peter H. Sand, senior environmental affairs officer with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, believes that such a system would "take advantage of the growing institutional memory of managerial methods for coping with some typical obstacles to effective international environ-



Environmental protection requires global cooperation

mental governance." The WRI report finds that there are also practical alternatives to intergovernmental litigation, such as recourse to local remedies and national courts, new procedures for citizen complaints, and environmental audits, to monitor compliance with agreed-upon standards and to publicize infringements.

However, according to the report, any new international treaty process must first overcome two fundamental drawbacks. First, treaties are based on the consensus of all participants, and thus the standards tend to reflect the lowest common denominator. It suggests innovative options for avoiding this bottom line ap-

proach and aiming for better-than-minimum standards. These could include fringe benefits to participating institutions or individuals, a country-by-country approach and rewards for over-achievement. If parties take more stringent measures than are expected of them, this can create a "bandwagon" effect, seen in the 1985 Helsinki Protocol, which called for sulphur emission reductions of "at least 30 per cent" and which resulted in 10 parties aiming at 50 per cent reductions.

The WRI takes government negotiators to task for the time wasted between the drafting, adoption and enforcement of treaties or standards. It says the process can be by-passed in several ways, including provisional adoption of a treaty, a declaration of common rules of conduct, such as the United Nations Environment Program's "law guidelines and principles."

The institute has once again put emphasis on what has been asserted by environmental activists for so long — that any new institutions should be able to respond and adapt to rapid change. Unless they do, said one expert, "we'll end up with more and more treaties and less and less ozone."

Key institutional issues in the environmental debate will be reviewed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, scheduled to take place in Brazil in June.

Academic File

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Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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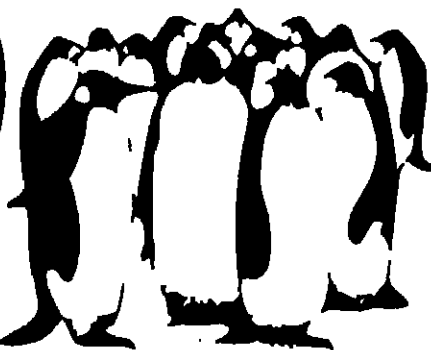
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&
Editor-in-Chief
Osamah El-Sherif

AROUND TOWN



Congratulations!!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

● Minister of Culture, Dr Mahmoud Al Samra, patronized last Sunday the opening ceremony of the exhibition "Colored Days", which was organized by the Spanish Cultural Center in conjunction with Baladna Gallery. The exhibition included some of the works of Iraqi artists Ali Al Mandalawi, Samer Osama, Nadeem Muhsem and Lamya Abdul Saheb; they all specialize in children drawings. The exhibition, to last until 23 April, includes facial masks and graffiti drawings.

● The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) declared its Oklax National Rally a success last week, with 13 of its 22 competitors completing. Issa Halabi and co-driver Laith Bisharat took the winning titles after completing the course in their Nissan 210 with a time of 1:13.4, closely followed into second place by Faisal Jabri and Ammar Abu Namous with a time of 1:17.36. The only participating ladies team of Najwa Al Hassan and Randa Al Hadidi finished in 12th place, with a time of 2:59.42.

● The Jordan InterContinental Hotel is proud to announce its weekly Quiz Night in the pub every Wednesday starting at 9 pm. Fifty questions will be asked in English in five rounds of ten each including current events, culture and leisure, history and geography, science and technology, as well as a surprise category which changes each week.

Answers are to be written on the answer sheet which should be handed in quickly after the end of each round. Two points will be given for each correct answer. One point may be given for a partially correct answer at the quiz-maker's discretion. The contestant with the highest number of points at the end of the final round is the winner. In case of a tie, additional questions will be asked until it is broken.

A valuable credit voucher will be awarded to the winner by the hotel's management. The quiz is open to all ages and on the basis of individuals and teams alike. The quiz questions are prepared by MBBA Ltd.

● April 18th will mark the opening of a week-long International Spring Trade Fair at the World Trade Center, Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates. One important highlight of the event will be the contributions of some 50 Indian companies, who aim to project their country's various industrial and technological capabilities.

Situated within an Indian-style pavilion, these private and public owned companies will present a wide variety of products, including building materials, adhesives, soap and detergents, pharmaceutical appliances

● Jordan's International Theater Day was marked by the closing ceremony of Jordan's first Youth Theater Festival, which was first inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor on 27 March. The Queen delivered awards to the artists in different fields of the performing arts, and also distributed prizes for the festival contest winners.

The festival judging committee consisted of Halem Said, Mahmoud Zohdi, Ashraf Abaza, Nader Omran and Suhail Illias. The festival revealed many new, young talents.

A *Woman Rebel and Aragoz*, directed by Hakeem Harb, won 6 prizes: Best play, directing, first male actor, first female role, costume, and make-up.

The Soft Desert Sand, directed by Ziad Jalal, was awarded for its script, first male role, and second male role.

Three prizes were delivered for best lighting (Basam Daboubi), music (Nassar Zo'bi) and setting (Sami Abdul Halem).

A statement issued by the festival's judging committee pointed out that more attention should be paid to improving the use of the Arabic language, organizing acting technique courses and establishing a tradition of theater events where actors may be exposed to different interactions and experiences. It is hoped that by taking such steps the quality of the next youth theater festival will improve.

Vesna Masharqa

along with gift articles such as leather-wear, jewelry, brass artware and perfumes. Granite, glass, plastic and rubber goods will also be displayed.

M. S. Suman, first secretary to the Indian embassy in Amman, remarked that India's participation in the Trade Fair is expected to open up extensive opportunities for trade and investment, and is in line with the Indian government's present policy of liberalization and flexibility.

● The Jordan Bridge Association recently participated in the first Damascus International Bridge Festival, which was held between the 7 and 12 April.

Agenda

Films

● The American Cultural Center will present the film "Sunset Boulevard" tonight at 7 pm. The film is an inclusive melodrama about a luckless Hollywood scriptwriter who goes to live with a wealthy woman. The film will be shown again next Sunday at the same time.

● The British Council will present the film "Doctor Zhivago" on Saturday 18 April at 7 pm.

● At the French Cultural Center, the film "La vie est un long fleuve tranquille" will be shown on Monday 20 April at 8 pm. A satire about two families who are quite the opposite of each other, but destiny joins them together despite their differences.



● Members of the British Airways Theater Group met the press at the Amman InterContinental Hotel Monday, to promote their latest travelling production *Two and Two Make Sex*. Described as a "farical comedy about marital infidelity", the show has so far been performed before audiences spanning the Gulf States, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China and Cairo.

Alternatively known as the "Derek Nimmo tour" after its well-known comic producer, the show features famous names such as Henry McGee of *The Benny Hill Show*, Carol Cleveland of *Monty Python* fame and niece of Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Margaret Ashcroft.

A light-hearted comedy with surprisingly little sexual content, the script is the work of writers Richard Hurris and Leslie Darbon, the former of whom wrote the screenplay for the film *Stepping Out*, which featured actresses Liza Minnelli and Julie Walters.

"The play is great fun," said leading actor Henry McGee, who eloquently described it as causing "some jolly old belly laughs!" The play will run until 18 April.



● HRH Princess Taghreed Mohammad patronized a special charitable fashion show held at the Amman Marriott Hotel on 11 April. Around 60 children, aged 3 to 14, took part in this function which displayed the works of Jordanian designers Liana Lama Burqa, Hanna Sadiq Beraudo and Zela Khawaneh. Proceeds of the show will go towards supporting the Hani Hamida kindergartens and their libraries.

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Badia Hall will be open to the Public to view exhibited items on Wednesday and Thursday 29-30/4/1992 from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Russia's ambassador to Jordan:

Russia reemerges from the legacy of communism

By Mary Denis
Special to The Star

THE DAYS of the stagnantly stable but decaying USSR have now faded into oblivion, with a new Russian state having emerged at lightning speed. The Russian people can now feel that they are in charge of shaping their present history — having learnt so many lessons from their not-so-distant past.

Yet the question still remains as to how the Russia of today will function — as a socialist or capitalist state, or otherwise?

H.E. Yuri Gradunov, Russian Ambassador to Jordan, believes the new Russia will be a "synthesis of what humanity and human civilization has accumulated. We will borrow the best from capitalism and will add our own spiritual experience, based on striving for improving human values."

Now, Mr Gradunov is positive that his country will emerge as a democratic country with a healthy market economy. He freely admits that communist dogma had its faults and that the theories of Marx were wrongly implemented. "As a theorist," he said, "his work was brilliant, but in reality his theory was misused and abused."

Decades of ideological warfare between Russia and the West are now over, yet the Russians do not feel as though they 'lost' in such a war.

"It was the system that lost, not Russia," said Mr Gradunov. "Russia has come out a winner. Look at the intelligentsia — highly-educated and broad-minded by any world standard. Now they can express their views freely, after having been forced for decades to think and talk official newspapers' editorial slogans." Russia now has freedom of the press, and a number of new publications expressing various points of view.

Mr Gradunov saw perestroika as a good progressive move. "It awakened the sleeping forces in the country, launching Russia into a new orbit of social and economic reforms," he said. He described perestroika as a "spiritual rebirth" of the people, "as though they cast off the bandages of ideology and started to breathe freely."

"Countless artistic movements and groups are springing up on the cultural scene all the time," added Galina Pestrova, the ambassador's wife. On a recent trip to Moscow, she witnessed long theater queues every evening in Moscow's streets.

"Debate now reigns as to how to 'divide' the cultural wealth and treasures of the former USSR. Some have suggested that cultural heritage be distributed according to its place of origin, while others, like Mr Gradunov, reject this kind of approach."

"Culture is a heritage that belonged to the whole country, and where it is 'placed' is of little significance," he said. "It is

the former USSR's legacy."

The breakdown of the union has left Russia going through "troubled times." Every sphere of life has been affected — be it political or economic. But Mr. Gradunov sees these difficulties as "growing pains." "Russia is going through a transitional period of economical restructuring, and hardships are inevitable," he said. Future reform, he added, should concentrate on environmental protection and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

Now that Russia has ceased to be a global power and its "superpower" mentality no longer exists, its new role in the world community has led to the emer-



Ambassador Gradunov

gence of a new political scene. The Russian ambassador describes it as one of "balance,

based on common world interests." "We do not live in isolation," he said. "We have a mutual ozone layer, for example."

A specialist in Arabic philology and fluent in classical Arabic, Mr Gradunov gained first-hand experience of the Arab world during his 5 years in Iraq and 2 years in Jordan. He has occupied high government positions and has travelled extensively throughout the Middle East. Regarded as an authority on Middle Eastern affairs, he has his own personal views about the political "climate" of the region.

Repercussions of the Gulf War, he believes, will be felt for some time to come. "A people's injured pride promotes extremist reactions, and may cause excessive nationalist sentiment," he said. He also reiterated the necessity of tackling the Arab-Israeli conflict with urgency. A solution, he believes, lies in the fulfillment of UN Security Council resolutions and the implementation of the "land for peace" formula.

With a positive conviction that one day "sound mind" will prevail, the conflict, he argues, will be solved. "Otherwise, what option is there?" he said. "Anarchy, or terror? Now is the time, more than ever before, for a favorable solution to the long-standing problems of the Middle East."

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The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
18-24
August

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers.
9:00 — Encounter.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Feature Film, "The Secret of My Success": Starring Michael J. Fox and Helen Slater. The film is a comic love story about a villager from Kansas who travels to New York to work his way up in his uncle's company.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Wings: Brian decides to flirt with Helen, but his brother Joe isn't interested. Soon Joe finds himself consumed by jealousy.
9:10 — Stalin: Documenting Stalin's achievements in the late Thirties up to his death in the Fifties.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Law and Order: An innocent baby is killed, and investigations lead to the indictment of a notorious gangster.

MONDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest: He who pays the fiddler calls the tune — a two-edged knife.
9:10 — Capital City: The team of dealers is joined by a new-comer, Hilary, who is sent to Michelle for training.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Stanley and the Women: Stanley decides to send Steve back to hospital after his aggressive behavior at home.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Princesses Tracey leaves her fiancé after discovering he has been married and divorced several times. She and her friend stay with Princess Georgia.
9:10 — Rich Tea and Sympathy: At a dinner attended by the two families, George finally admits to Julia that he loves her, and she confesses her love for him.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Oscar Film, "Twenty One Days": Starring Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier. A classic feature film, showing that a good man's life is complicated by events beyond his control.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Spatz: "Sing for your supper." The coordinator of Spatz restaurants in Europe asks the staff to sing while taking customers orders, so as to promote business.
9:10 — Equinox: Is the temperature rising on this globe? Is there any evidence of catastrophic changes in our climate? This documentary program attempts to answer such questions.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — New series, "The other



Rich tea and sympathy on Tuesday at 9:10

side of paradise": A love story and adventure between a British doctor, Chris, and a South Pacific princess, Alina. The story is set during the events of World War Two.

THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpsons: Homer's father meets a rich old woman who leaves him a fortune in her will. To Homer's dismay, his father gives all of the money to the needy, leaving nothing for him.
9:10 — NBA Basketball.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Movie of the Week, "Murder 101" Starring Dey Young and Antoni Korone. Charlie, a crime writer who also teaches at a university, is accused of committing three crimes. He is out to prove his innocence.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Lenny: Lenny loses a bowling game.
9:10 — E.N.G. "Your place or mine?": David, a senior employee at the TV station, assists a friend in covering a program on environment.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Devices and Designs: Another girl is killed in this episode, but this time in a different way. The hunt continues for the person behind the killings.
11:10 — Sibs: "The Final Days": Nora agrees at last to appoint Mr Warner as the accountant.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja: A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — La famille Fontaine. "Conscience de classe": A series about a family. Each time a different story.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Magazine, A cultural magazine.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — L'école des fans, Invité

ing Mireille Mathieu. Children sing the songs of their favorite singers.
6:10 — Résumé de la messe de Pâques de l'Église Saint-Pierre au Vatican.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Carnet de notes. A classical music program.

LUNDI

6:00 — Le monde sous-marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau. A documentary program about marine life. This week's episode is entitled "1970: la mer vivante."
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — La Magazine Sportif: The Weekly Sports Magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie. "Separation du chien". A comedy series about two doctors.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Variétés. A selection of French songs.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le Monde est à Vous. A variety and cultural program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Intertropique. An agriculture magazine on Africa.

JEUDI

6:00 — Les sanctuaires sauvages, "Le sol de la terre, la Camargue". A documentary program.
6:30 — Maguy. "Affaire d'impôts". A series about Maguy and her husband.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Le cirque du soleil. Circus.

VENREDI

5:30 — Sans famille. The story of a young boy.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusion. A scientific magazine.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Not seeing is not believing for many people. Put on a convincing demonstration for any doubters in the crowd. This is no time to act reckless in finance or romance. Slow down.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Better cash management is the key to greater financial security. Get your spending under control. Stop hiding something. Your offspring deserve to know the truth. Guard your valuables.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): Financial services tailored to your needs will help you build savings. Conduct a careful investigation before making a financial commitment. A career decision is best postponed. Romance requires time.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): Given your track record, there should be no question that you will succeed once you land a coveted assignment. Do your homework diligently. You want to be ready when opportunity knocks.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): A customized approach wins plaudits from your clients or friends. Guarantee a quick decision by following all the rules and meeting a deadline. Call home frequently when traveling. Nurture close relationships.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Changing times mean good times for you. Go with the flow. All your planning is worth it. New career and financial gains are featured. A record-breaking effort means higher profits.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): A scholarship or grant could still be possible for a deserving student. Those who excel in math and science get good news. A family gathering is a huge success. Past grievances are forgotten.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Buy things for your home that express how you want to live. Those looking for traditional furniture could find a real bargain. Take a weekend off if you feel your energy flagging.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Set a larger share of your income aside for future comforts. Take advantage of travel that may open new doors of opportunity. Logic helps you solve a domestic problem. Think!

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Expand your repertoire and people with wealth and power will help your career. You may want to work with several financial backers. A special project brings you and your loved ones closer together.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): A tailored look impresses conservative buyers or clients. A friend could be entirely off-base. Rely on your own intuition and you won't go wrong. Romance brings a rich new dimension to your life.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): A scholarly talk gains the audience you want. Your financial fortunes improve, thanks to a once-in-a-lifetime deal. Family differences could slow progress.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN are highly inventive and sensitive. Artistic projects provide a healthy outlet for their pent-up energy. Participation in team sports will help these children develop assertiveness and self-confidence. Language, arts and history should come easily.

Middle East Business Associates Ltd. (MEBA)

MEBA is an economic and business consulting organization with international expertise. Our clients include: C. Itoh, Jordan National Shipping Lines, the Middle East Times, Middle East Market Research Institute, the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, Zara Dead Sea Bath Salts, Aramex, Inter. Continental Jordan Hotel, Oxford Analytica, Salim and Samir Fakouh Co., Nuqul Bros Co. Ltd., the Private Services Development Project, the Kavar group of companies, Khleif and Co., MedDesign, the Canadian International Development Agency, Issa R. Masri Trading and Contracting Est., InfoMedia International, and Arthur Andersen/Dajani, Alaed-din & Co., among many others.

For information on how MEBA can help you in Jordan and abroad, contact Riad al Khouri or Hala Aghabi at 655531 or 624134 (phone) or 640955 (fax).

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Australian	637246/7
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Bahrain	664148
Belgian	675683
Bulgarian	818151
Canadian	666124
Chilean	661336
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	677888
Czechoslovakian	665105
Danish Consulate Gen.	622324
Finnish Consulate	623443
French	641273/4
German	689351
Greek	672351
Hungarian	816614
Indian	637262
Iraqi	638131
Italian	638135
Consulate Gen. Ireland	638135
Japanese	672486/7
Yugoslavian	665107
Kuwaiti	675135/8
Libyan	666118
Lebanese	641381
Moroccan	641451
Netherlands	637967/625165
Indonesian	828911
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Consulate	637164
Pakistani	622787
Palestine	677517
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	637153
Qatari	644331/2
Romanian	666738
Saudi Arabian	814154
South Korean	660745/6
Spanish	622140
Sudanese	644251/2
Swedish	669177/9
Swiss	686416/7
Syrian	641076
Tunisian	674307/8
Turkish	641251
United Arab Emirates	644369
United Kingdom	823100
United States of America	644371
USSR	641158
Yemen	642381
Delegation of the EEC	668191
UNDP	668171/7
UNRWA	669194/8
UNICEF	671530
Con. of Sri Lanka	645312

Airlines

Arab Air Cargo	674191/95
Aeroflot	641510
Air France	666055/667824
Air India	675888/9
Air Lanka	655377/651799
Allitalia	625203
American Airlines	669088
Arab Wings	894484
Austrian Airlines	637380/667028
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Airways	641430
China Airlines	637380
Cathay Pacific	667028
Cyprus Airways	667028
Egypt Air	638211
Emirates Airlines	662141/676616
Gulf Air	653606/639295
Hungarian Airlines	627827/644036
Iberia	628596/628598
Inqal Airways	628596/628598
Japan Air Lines	630879
K.L.M.	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662236
Kowloon Airlines	630144
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
Lufthansa	601744
Malaysian Airline	639575/653446
M.E.A.	636104
Olympic	630125/638433
PIA	625981
Philippine Airlines	670155
Polish Airlines	625981
Qantas	641430/655447
Royal Jordanian	678321
Sabena Belgian Airlines	675888
Saudia	639333
Scandinavian Airlines	604649
Singapore Airlines	676177
Sudan Airlines	662111
Swiss Air (G.S.A.)	642943
Swiss Air	629831
Syrian Air	622147
TARCOM-Romanian	637380
Thai Airways	604649
Traffic World Airline	623430
Turkish Airlines	659102
Yemenia Airways	628173
Yugoslav Airlines	604911
Queen Alia Airport	(08)53200

DIARY Diary

Activities

Cultural centres

Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7
American Centre Library	641520
British Council	636147/8
French Cultural Centre	637009
Goethe Institute	641993
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203
Spanish Cultural Centre	624049
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777
Haya Arts Centre	665195
Hussein Youth City	667181/5
Y.W.C.A.	641793
Y.W.M.A.	664251
Amman Mun. Library	637111
Univ. of Jordan Library	834555

Cinemas

Concord	677420
Rainbow	625155
Plaza	674111
Philadelphia	634144
Nijom	675557

Sports Clubs

Al Hussein Sports City	667181
Orthodox Club	810491
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
Royal Chess Club	673713
Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Jordan Bridge Assoc.	676990

Rent-a-car

Shakhshir	668958
Al-Jabal	606669
Kada	665161/665153
Al-Labadi	813554
National	639197/8
Nobo	816792
Petra	605501
Rabbit Amman	672424
Al-Rimal	639861
Al-Samer	771707
Saidite	625767/621471
Star	604904
Tiger	671931
Trust	673312
Al-Waha	674105
Abu Degge	644642/644906
Amin Jarrar (Avis)	670498
Amman	666327
Arabian	641350
Avis-Jarrar	08/51000
Budget	604230
Deas	669970
Dinari	666061
Europcar	601350/80
General Services	674100
Gulf	669092

Hotels

Crown	798181
Philadelphia	663100
Murriotti	660100
Jerusalem	660000
Intercontinental	641361
Ambassador	665186
Commodore	665181
Middle East	667150
Grand Palace	661121
Tyche	666114
International	841712
San Rock	813801
Alia Gateway	(08) 51000
Amra	815071
Plaza	674111

Aqaba

Holiday Int'l	312426
Miramar	314340
Al-Cazar	314131
Coral Beach	313521
Aquamarina I.	316250
Aqaba	314091

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IDD Codes: First Dial 00

Algeria	213	Amsterdam	20	Marbella	52
Argentina	54	Rotterdam	10	Majorca	71
Buenos Aires	1	North Yemen	967	Sri Lanka	94
Australia	61	Al Bayda	6	Colombo	1
Adelaide	8	Hodeidah	3	Sudan	249
Brisbane	7	Sana'a	5	Khartoum	11
Canberra	62	Taiz	4	Sweden	46
Melbourne	3	Nigeria	234	Stockholm	8
Perth	9	Lagos	1	Syria	963
Sydney	2	Norway	47	Damascus	11
Austria	43	Oslo	2	Taiwan	886
Vienna	22	Oman	968	Taipei	2
Antwerp	3	Pakistan	92	Thailand	66
Belgium	32	Karachi	92	Bangkok	2
Brussels	2	Lahore	42	Tunisia	216
Brazil	55	Peshawar	521	Tunis	1
Rio de Janeiro	21	Rawalpindi/Islamabad	51	Turkey	90
Brazilia	61	Paraguay	595	Ankara	4
Sofia	359	Asuncion	54	Istanbul	1
Bulgaria	359	Porto	351	UAE	971
Rome	6	Lima	51	Abu Dhabi	2
Canada	1	Philippines	63	Amman	6
Ottawa	613	Manila	2	Al Ain	3
Chile	56	Poland	48	Dubai	4
Santiago	2	Warsaw	22	Fujairah	70
Cyprus	357	Qatar	974	Ghayathi	52
Nicosia	21	Romania	40	Ras Al Khaima	77
Czechoslovakia	42	Bucharest	0	Sharjah	6
Prague	2	Saudi Arabia	966	Umm Al Quwain	6
Denmark	45	Al-Khobar	4	UK	44
Copenhagen (Inner)	1	Dammam	3	London (Inner 71/outer 81)	7
Copenhagen (Outer)	2	Jeddah	2	Uruguay	598
Bozdar	993	Mecra	2	Montevideo	2
Quito	2	Riyadh	1	USA	1
Egypt	20	Spain	34	New York 212/718	1
Cairo	2	Barcelona	3	Washington 202	7
Eire	353	Madrid	1	Moscow 095	7
Dublin	1			Venezuela	58
Cork	21			Caracas	2
Finland	358			Yugoslavia	38
Helsinki	0				
France	33				

Museums

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 638795.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Weibdeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.

Churches

St. Joseph Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Weibdeh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Would You Believe.....

Willem Van Buuren, 82, who died recently, lived for 22 years with a transplanted heart.

The federal government estimates that the U.S. medical bill for treating people with AIDS or the AIDS virus will reach \$5.8 billion in 1991 and nearly double to \$10.4 billion in 1994.

In New York, a hairdresser who goes only by the name of Oribe has a yearlong waiting list of women who want him to cut their hair for \$250. Among his clients: Demi Moore, Monica Seles and Meryl Streep.

Nearly 46 million people lost their lives during World War II.

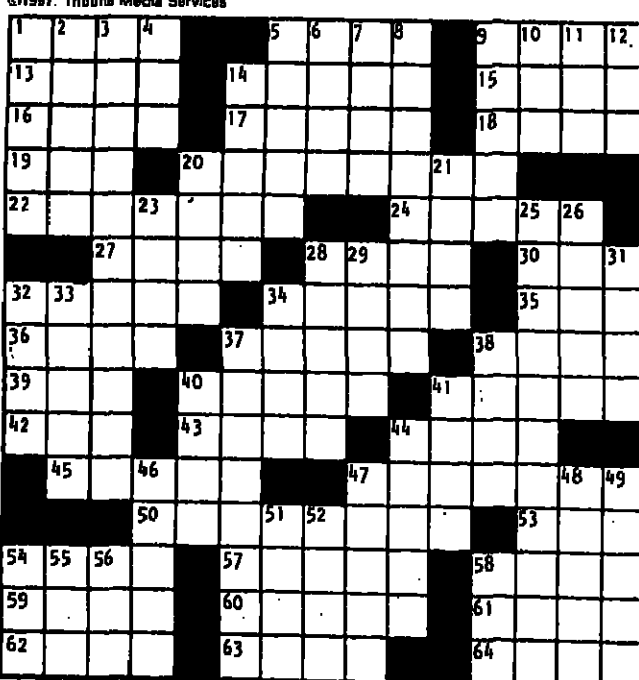
In 1990, O'Hare International Airport in Chicago handled 811,000 departures and arrivals.

Solution



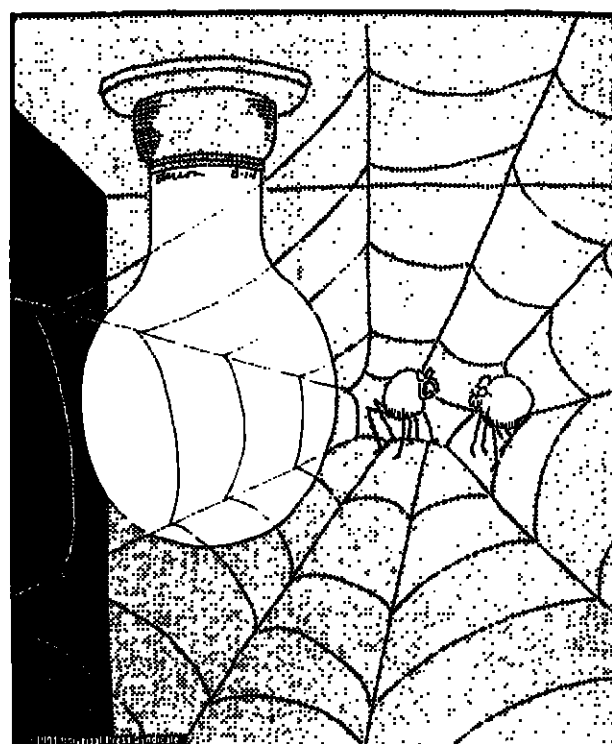
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- Power unit
 - Hawaiian greeting
 - Past-to-future device
 - Tip of a shoe
 - About
 - Step
 - Diamond-shaped
 - Answered sharply
 - Musical sign
 - Memorable period
 - Inactive action
 - Deer
 - Legend
 - The woman's
 - Sweater material
 - Emcee's item
 - Baseball hit
 - Noise
 - Lover
 - Norse god
 - Marries
 - Equal part
- DOWN**
- Box in the gym
 - Useless plants
 - Rooter
 - About
 - Tree homes
 - Foreword
 - Supposed Chinese dish
 - Sticky substance
 - Davenport
 - Small bird sound
 - Cyclops, for one
 - Seed cover
 - Furts
 - Check
 - Look turn-tively
 - Remain
 - Walked
 - Value

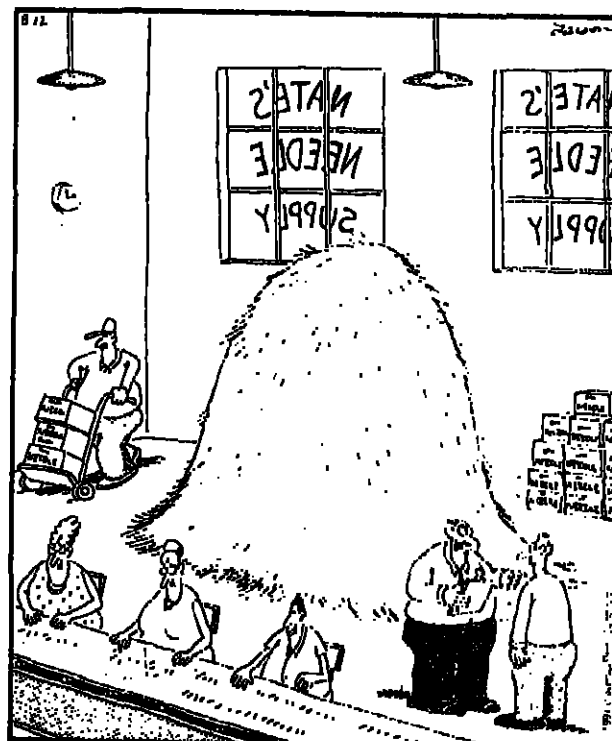


THE FAR SIDE

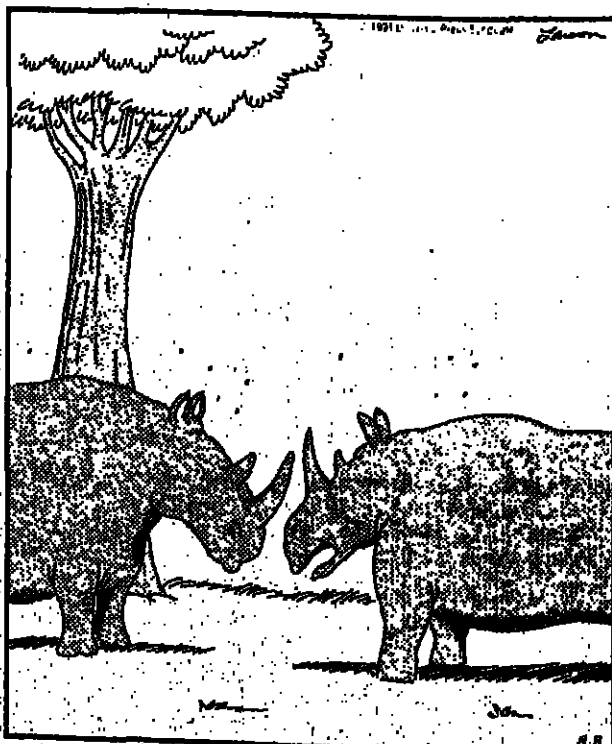
By GARY LARSON



"Crimony! Every night you ask me what's for dinner and every night I say the same thing: 'Moths, moths, moths!'"



"According to these figures, Simmons, your department has lost another No. 2 Double A, and I want you to find it!"



"Bob! There's a fly on your lip! ... There he goes! ... He's back! He's back!"

ROCK TRACKS

By Stephanie DuBols

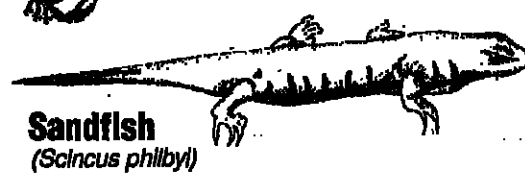
Remember Chic, the group that reigned at the top of the charts in the '70s with such hits as "Le Freak" and "I Want Your Love"? They're baaaack! And, yes, with that same Chic sound, says co-founder/guitarist Nile Rodgers. He and partner Bernard Edwards recently released the new Warner Bros. "Chicism" disk. He says, "We knew we were running the risk of being out of vogue and sounding old-fashioned when we decided to do a real Chic record. Our style of R&B dance music — with the horn players and extra musicians — just doesn't exist anymore. But to us Chic is a sound and a philosophy and we couldn't do it any other way." Rodgers and Edwards have been very active behind the scenes producing for other artists, but he says now they're antsy to get back to performing live. "I love playing and now I'm playing the best I've ever played. When you're younger, you think all you want to be is a recording star. But then you find you really only wanted that so you could get to the stage. There's nothing more satisfying than having a tight band on stage to jam with." As much as Chic is looking forward to touring, Rodgers says when — and if — the group tours will be up to the fans. "We just hope other people are into this album and will really want to see us."

Who knows? Disco could be making a comeback. Even disco queen Donna Summer has a new album, "Mistaken Identity." She started out promoting her disk on a whirlwind tour of England — and hopes to do a stateside turn later, depending on the success of her album.

Music man Michael Kamen, who had a monster hit with Bryan Adams on "Everything I Do, I Do For You" from his "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" soundtrack, is putting the finishing touches on his score for the Michael Douglas/Melanie Griffith "Shining Through" film. Kamen, who also has the two earlier "Lethal Weapon" films to his credit, next moves right onto scoring "Lethal Weapon III."

Al B. Sure! is in the studio working on his latest album with buddy and co-producer Kyle West. The singer, who produced the group Jodeci's debut album and several cuts on Tevin Campbell's latest disk, hopes to have his own product in record stores by spring.

Creature feature



Sandfish
(*Scincus philbyi*)

Home: Saudi Arabian desert

Habits: Stays active through the heat of the day, spending most of its time just below the surface of the sand; looks for beetles, millipedes and other prey

Claim to fame: Pushes its way through the sand with a swimming motion, hence its name; unlike burrowing skinks, has well developed legs and feet; female gives birth to fully-formed live young, which have developed inside her body

SOURCE: Detroit Free Press, "Macmillan Illustrated Animal Encyclopedia," "The Encyclopedia of Reptiles and Amphibians," Research by NANCY ROSS-FLANGAN

MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

CHEERS (Sol: 6 letters)
A-Antics; B-Beer, Boston; C-Clara, Charm, Cliff, Coach, Cool, Crowded; D-Darts, Diane, Drink; E-Eddie, Expert; F-Fraser, Friend; G-Gather, Girl crazy, Goof; J-Joke; K-Kelly; L-Laugh, Liliith; N-Nerd, Nick, Norm, Nuts; O-Office, Order; P-Postman, Four, Psychiatrist; R-Rebecca, Red Sox, Regular, Rude; S-Sammy, Serve, Silly, Stools; T-Tables, Talk, Tend bar; V-Vers; W-Wacky, Waitress, Want, Woody

This Week's Answer: COMEDY

ANTICSELBATALKC
PLYLLEKMHITLILH
SVMRONRLVFRRIENDA
YRGAI VOEWACKYER
CUI SCEORONERDDM
HRRKHCACOTNAWX
IELAUGHTDRUOPOF
AXCLCYSOYNUTSRO
TPRUPOSTMANDDCO
REAGBEERMREHTAG
IRZEREISARFEKOJ
STYRDARTSOFFICE
TORDERESSERTIAW
KNIRDYLLISTOOLS
REBECCARABDNETC

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CAROL CLEVELAND · JOHN PENNINGTON

...two and two make S*x

by RICHARD HARRIS
and LESLIE DARBON

Directed by MICHELLE MARTIN · BARNY CLEVELY

Produced by NICHOLAS PARSONS
Derek Nimmo · John Elviry

Designed by JOHN ELVIRY

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Too greedy

Amman March 26/1992

Dear Ghassan,

HERE IS a curious hand which came up last week at the Jordan Bridge Association:

♠ A 4
♥ A K J 6 5 4
♦ K 6
♣ Q 6 5

♠ 8 7 6
♥ 7 3
♦ J 8 7 5 4
♣ 9 4 2

♠ Q J T 9 2
♥ 10 2
♦ A Q T 9
♣ 10 3

♠ K 5 3
♥ Q 9 8
♦ 3 2
♣ A K J 8 7

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4N
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	6N	Pass	End

My partner West was a very inexperienced player — he did not lead his partners suit, but a "hopeless" 4th highest of his diamond suit. As you can see this went 4 down, while everyone was making 6♥, comfortable — even 6N from North — or South, because of the expected spade lead was the "correct" one!

North said he bid 6N because it scores better.

than 6♥, and he was expecting to make it on a normal spade lead.

This goes to show you that not all "expert" opinions are correct!

Regards, Mustaf Al-Askari

I am glad to receive this letter from one of the best players of Iraq and a good friend.

Both North and South did not give careful consideration to reach the appropriate contract regarding the level, denomination and the side to play it. After hearing the 3♥ bid, south was almost sure of the slam, 6♥ or maybe 7♥, but did he considered that they were playing a pairs game and notrump slams score better?

Looking to his small doubleton diamonds, south should try a better sequence:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠ (1)
Pass	3N (2)	Pass	4N
Pass	5♥	Pass	5N
Pass	6♥	Pass	6N
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) Notrump probe, asking for a Spade stopper.
(2) Yes, I have a spade stopper. In this sequence, South placed the contract at the right side to protect his partner's diamond holding. If South fails to place the contract correctly, both North and South should be satisfied with the above average score of 6♥, the greedy 6N bid was punished.

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